



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Opening Remarks to the Maryland General Assembly

January 9th, 2008

Thank you very, very much. It's a great honor to be with all of you once again in this chamber.

And I'll share this story with the Lawton family. At one point in the very difficult work that you were getting done in that session, I called Delegate Lawton — true story — and I said, Delegate Lawton, this is your Governor. And she said, 'Oh, no.'

I said, 'How does that make me feel?' And she says, 'Oh, I know that if you're calling me, it'll mean we're in trouble.' And you notice what she said — she didn't say 'I was in trouble.' She said 'we.' She knew I was calling to ask her to pass bills that were probably not popular to her constituency. But she said, 'I know that *we're* in trouble.' Because she knew that we were in this together. And certainly her death really punctuated one of the precepts that I think brings all of us together, which is that everybody in our State is needed and important.

To the Lawton family, thank you for being here today. There are few people who have served in this chamber that I ever found that did so with greater strength, with greater grace than Jane did. She was a principled and courageous public servant. She understood that it was in the arena of compromise that progress is made. And we want to thank you for sharing her life with all of us and for continuing to remind us of her tremendous spirit that she was and still is.

This State and this chamber have been changed without her and they were also changed because of her. And important work remains to be done, work that was important to her because it's important to her neighbors, to her family, and to the community she held dear.

So the members of the General Assembly, on behalf of the people of our State, and in that spirit, thank you for getting our State to move forward again. Thank you for coming back to this Assembly for the important work that needs to be done. You know, in the last year one of the editorials, one of the newspapers editorialized we accomplished more together in one year than usually we get done in an entire four years. But, of course, there's still more to be done. There's a lot more to be done.

There's people who are out there who are hurting because of foreclosure, trying to

## Releases

pay their bills and there are people who are working very, very hard to make a better life for their families. And we owe it to them to continue to make progress and to prove that progress is still possible, because in our State there really is more that unites us than divides us. We united around our common values, a belief in the dignity of every individual and belief in our own responsibility to advance the common good.

And that's what we're going to do in the 90 days ahead under the tremendous leadership of Speaker Busch. We're going to do everything in our power to strengthen and grow our middle class, to improve public safety and public education, and to expand the opportunities to learn, to earn, to enjoy the health of people who help more people rather than fewer.

And we're going to do it as one Maryland, saying as those who've come before us, by our actions, our responsibility really is the greatest of freedom's privilege.

Thank you all so very much for the privilege of being involved in this great endeavor. And thank you again to the Lawton family; it was a privilege having gotten to know your wife and your mom.

Thanks very, very much.



0



0



Share

Tags: [annapolis](#), [general assembly](#), [legislative](#), [opening](#), [session](#), [state house](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Maryland Crime Victims' Rights and Compliance First Annual Conference](#)  
[Tech Council Remarks](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

## Tech Council Remarks

January 22nd, 2008

Thank you all for your kindness and thank you for welcoming me here to be with you.

And thank you also for the work that you do in partnership with David Edgerley.

David is here with us today as our secretary of the event. He has served as Secretary in Allegheny County of their economic development, and then for many years, as the economic development person for Montgomery County.

So David does have an understanding, I think, of the breadth of our State and he also has a pretty keen understanding of the tremendous strength that we have in what I like to call our creative economy — technology and all its related components; whether it's life sciences, whether it's bio-tech, and everything in between.

So thank you for the work that you've been doing with David as well.

Robert, thank you for your introduction and for the strong commitment you've made to the development of our State.

I also want to thank Ed Rudner, Julie Coons, and many others for pulling this together and advancing the important conversations that we need to have about our shared challenges and our shared opportunities.

I was talking to Secretary Edgerley a little earlier today and I said "we are blessed with an abundance of assets, but what we haven't done very well yet is to articulate the strategy."

There are other States who are great at putting out the glossy brochure and zeroing in on their strategy and even aligning what aspects of their State Government they can to try and build up their technology sector and their life science sector.

We almost have the inverse problem. We have a lot of great assets and what we haven't done, I don't think, as well as we could and as well as we should, is really align so many of the things that we do at State Government — yes, and also in County Governments, they can coordinate and cooperate. They're not unnatural acts between non-consenting adults. Especially when it's about protecting the tremendous assets we have here to grow, by leaps and bounds.

In a relatively short time, Maryland has fast become one of our nation's leaders in

## Releases

technology and life sciences — even taking those strengths overseas in some instances and partnering with other universities and Governments and businesses.

It would not have been possible without the leadership from the Tech Council. You have spent years investing your time and your talents in giving Maryland that reputation because of your good work. And we need to continue to search for answers and forge better partnerships.

I really hope that in the time that I have to serve you that we can make the State of Maryland a much stronger partner, and also a much more articulate and global partner in talking about what's going on here in our State. Why? So we can win an award or maybe be on the right panel at the National Governor's Association?

No. It's because we want to be able to create and attract that most important asset of all, which is those highly skilled workers who, because they're so motivated, so creative, so innovative and so highly skilled, can go and live any place they like because they're very much sought after.

And in order to attract them here I find that a lot of times their spouses are equally as creative and talented and innovative. And they want to live in a place where they know that there will be more opportunities. That when they're done doing one particular phase of their life or start at one company, that there's opportunities to go to another one. I mean, that's the way our world works.

In my brief time before you tonight I want to talk about Maryland's future and our ability to grow. And our ability, quite frankly, I think to come out of this national downturn much more quickly than other States because of you. Because of all of you. And because of the work that you do in technology and technology-related fields like science's emerging homeland security, not to mention space and aero-space and everything else that goes into making us so proud to proclaim that we are a strong State.

40 days ago we were facing the prospect of not only the national economy getting a lot of shaking, but also a huge crushing structural deficit coming to roost at the same time. That was nothing that anyone in State Government had planned, that was the hand that we were dealt.

And I thought I would have to stand in front of you and many other places in our State and say things like, I'm sorry, we cannot do the Bio-Tech Investment Tax Credit; we cannot do the Nano-Bio — I know it's only \$2.4 million, but we can't do it; and we can't do the Research and Development Tax Credits; we can't do the stem cell funding anymore.

Nor can we build the ICC as quickly as we'd like to, to get your workers to and from their business, nor can we advance the red line, the green line in Baltimore, nor can we invest in either the West side or the East Baltimore Development Bio-Tech parks, nor can we invest in a purple line, nor can we stabilize health care costs, which are still killing us, because of the huge number of uninsured we have in our State.

And the reason we would not have been able to do any of those things was because we could not muster the very, very difficult and fragile and important consensus that we needed to put together in order to protect our priorities, to protect the things that

make us an attractive State.

The good news and bad news is I don't have to give that speech, but I do have to acknowledge that I know you're not happy about the service tax on computer services in our State. I know that as you look at that you think to yourself, why do we want to tax something that's growing?

And I know that you also are aware of the fact that it's been hard to implement in some States. No doubt some are concerned that maybe if you're doing business with the Federal Government that the Federal Government won't want to choose you because you have to charge them a Maryland tax.

Well, we need to get through some of those myths and I want to work together with you. I do not blame you at all for wanting to push for its repeal. You are certainly full stakeholders in this great corporation known as the State of Maryland. And you have every right to comment and make those arguments here in this regular session.

But I also pledge to you that I want to work with you to work out the administration of this and mitigate whatever possible downsides there might be and include the administration and the collection of this particular piece, as it's projected to generate approximately \$200 million. Some would say that that will not do that much.

But nonetheless, that was part of a really tough consensus package. And I've got to tell you, there wasn't one piece of it that was very popular. There was not one piece that was popular.

And totally glossed over in all of this exercise was approximately \$1.2 billion that we cut, even while trying to protect our priorities of public education, higher education, public safety and our quality of life. 80 percent of your State tax dollar goes to three things; public education, in one way, shape or form, including our colleges and our community colleges, public safety, and health care. I mean, that's 80 percent of what our State does.

So I want to work with you in the future. I know you're not happy about it, I don't blame you for not being happy about it. And in the triumph of hope over cruel experience I even more deeply appreciate you not rescinding your invitation for me to be with you tonight. (Laughter)

Let's talk a little bit about the future, shall we? We have a tremendous State and it is one of those States that people like Richard Florida looks at — the gentleman who wrote, *The Rise of the Creative Class* and, also, *The Flight of the Creative Class* — because of our diversity, because of our collection of tremendous institutions, public and private, of discovery of technology, of scientific innovation. We are a very, very creative State.

And in this new sort of asymmetrical warfare that our country is going to be dealing with for the next 100 years and the confluence of Federal assets across the board of that defense, from Fort Dietrich to Aberdeen, NIH and others, we are well poised as America squares her shoulders to the challenge ahead of us. Not to mention the other natural challenges of the threat of pandemic flu and the like.

We are very, very well positioned and we are very well poised to really roar ahead.

It's sad to say and I don't know the reason, but historically Maryland has always experienced her greatest periods of growth and economic progress during wartime. And this is a 100 year war of a different type that's going to require investments in technology and innovation and life sciences.

This promises to be an unprecedented time, when we might not only advance our country's defense here at home, but we might also discover the weapons of mass salvation — in the words of Dr. Jeffrey Sachs — to cure epidemics, pandemics, diseases far away from here that really do secure our role as a moral leader of this world.

Maryland ranks fourth in the nation for investments in science and technology. If we look at science related employment levels, which incorporates our world class Federal facilities, there is no place like Maryland on earth.

In trying to do a better job of attracting inward investment here, I've met with some of the ambassadors from China.

Also the Irish sent their delegation here — they were very, very focused in a very concerted way on technology and are now the largest exporter of software in the world. Well, they've determined the next big thing is life sciences and bio-tech and health sciences and the technology associated with that.

And I know we have a diverse crew here, I'm going to try to keep it broad-based. But the point being, that Maryland is the gateway to all of that, because they don't see another State with that concentration of skills and talents and great institutions.

We are the country's second largest recipient of Federal research and development grants — \$12 billion a year. We are home to one of the largest clusters of bio-tech companies in the country. We have leading institutions of higher learning, accounting for one of the most highly skilled workforces in the nation, but it's not as skilled as it needs to be.

And we have enormous strength today, but only because of the foresight that leaders like you have had to develop a potential here. And I thank you for doing that in Maryland.

Our challenge now — and the responsibility we share and also the opportunity we share — is to put forward an agenda that's broad, inclusive and that also aligns our efforts and which protects our priorities, which builds on our strengths and puts forward that technology agenda so that we can hold our heads high, advertise to the world that this is an epicenter in the United States of America.

This is an economy that can compete with other world economies, especially as increasingly we look at the assets we have not only in Maryland, but in this whole creative crescent that is this Chesapeake Region; the District of Columbia, and Virginia as well.

And I look forward to working with you as we do some of the spade-work and ground-work to create that larger economy, which we're unconsciously a part of. Talented people don't stop at the Potomac River or the District of Columbia, notwithstanding the transportation constrictions that we all suffer from.

But tonight I want to share with you some tangible steps that we are taking to strengthen our technology community and the agenda that we're moving forward in these challenging times.

You might imagine how difficult it would be in your own business, as it has been for people like Secretary Edgerley, to look at their budgets and know that if we were not able to pull off the difficult things that so far we have been able to pull off to restore fiscal responsibility, that he would have to do his mission with about 40 to 50 percent less of a budget.

Why is that? Because he's outside of the public safety, the health care, and the education formula of things. He's in that other 18 percent, which always gets whacked with the biggest cuts at the end to absorb a \$2 billion cut on a \$14 billion base.

So we want to take advantage of the growing influx of science and technology programs, the workforce that will enhance Maryland's position as one of the most research and development intensive locations in the U.S.

We've seen some evidence of that already. Morgan Stanley, located 900 new jobs here – very technology dependent. T. Rowe Price, with the 1,400 additional new jobs that they announced. Legg Mason, their expansion and relocation.

I know we think of them as a financial services industry, but there are many, many people in New York that are increasingly wanting to put their technology and their back-up centers here in Maryland. Off on a different power grid and some place on I-95 or the Amtrak lines, so that people can get in for meetings when they need to.

We're making key investments in education now to grow Maryland's workforce 20 years from today. We want to reinvigorate and recreate a Pre-kindergarten to 20 Council in our State. We have tremendous strengths, but it's a shame that we have silos; "I'm a K to 12 person, I only do K to 12," "I'm a community college person, I do community college."

We have made investments in K to 12 education and school construction and renovation. It's a huge priority, because the people who we attract to our workforce really want to live here. High on their list is whether we can continue to maintain the high quality of public schools that we have in our State, recently ranked the third best in the nation.

We've held the line for the third year in a row on college tuition – we saw it go up in our State by 40 percent – so we've held the line on college tuition.

I've mentioned the P-20 Council. That council will be charged with the higher education system to produce the science, technology, engineering and math skills demanded by the global economy.

Brit Kirwan has identified a program at the University of Texas in Austin that is very successful in attracting teachers into our system. They can help us produce the talents that all of you need.

Together, we're also going to be doing a much better job of harnessing the potential of our adults. There are many people, returning veterans and others, that come

back to Maryland and are a tremendous strength.

We also want to create a more coherent vision for Maryland's life sciences community. As you know, we appointed the first life sciences advisory board in September whose mission is to create a comprehensive strategic plan to grow Maryland's bio-science industry, creating workforce and field research in our academic centers.

I asked Tom Watkins of Human Genome Sciences to lead the board and craft that whole vision. And, Tom, thank you for your service. It is my great hope that come this summer – maybe even at the front end of the summer, rather than the back end of the summer – that instead of meeting and talking about what we need to do, we'll actually have a strategic plan, and can start aligning these efforts and creating that more coherent vision.

Number five, Maryland has a very strong position in the aerospace and defense industry to meet our nation's needs. Last year ATK, a leader in satellites, rocket propulsion and space robotics, moved its mission systems group headquarters to Baltimore.

This year ATK purchased Canada's McDonnell Detweiler and is establishing their new combined systems headquarters in Baltimore as well. Today our university system is partnered with companies like ATK, who invest in Maryland students to create a new, stronger workforce.

Number six, we are significantly increasing Maryland's financial investment programs for businesses in order to make investments that actually bring us returns in high growth areas like technology. We are growing Maryland's largest business loan and grant financing program by \$40 million this year alone. That is not part of the bread and butter, David Edgerley's shop of that critical investment fund.

We are completing the Rural Broadband Initiative, we're helping Maryland's small and minority businesses take advantage of BRAC opportunities, where Anthony Brown has been doing a tremendous job. We asked the Lieutenant Governor, he probably told you last year, to head the BRAC Task Force. And not only do we now have a plan, we're actually making some substantial progress towards making that plan real with investments in transportation and other initiatives, like workforce and higher education related to BRAC. Huge opportunities.

Sometimes when I have occasion to sit down with Governors from other States, I won't mention any names, but there are States where the Governors wake up every single day and look at the newspaper, and they see the tens of thousands of jobs that their State is shedding and losing – whether they're going offshore or whether they're going to other States. And that's their problem, every day they're scratching and clawing.

And think about our psychology as Marylanders, we wake up in the morning and we see thousands of jobs coming from BRAC. And large portions of our public said, "oh my goodness, we'll never handle it, the roads will be crowded on the weekends, what a horrible thing."

I served the people of Baltimore, a city that is suffering through the greatest job loss and greatest population loss of any of America's cities in the 30 years prior to



1999. And in the course of the last year I've had occasion to serve a State where people want to live and where the Federal Government is making investments and locating jobs that will not go overseas to Asia or India.

Either way you tack your sail I suppose there's problems, but I'd much rather have the problems of growth and expanding opportunities than contracting opportunity and population loss.

We are going to be able to continue to fund Maryland's innovative tax credits and financial incentive programs, such as they are, for life sciences and technology. The Bio-Tech Investment Tax Credit, \$6 million which leverages \$12 million for Maryland companies; the Nano-BioTech Fund, which we dedicated another \$2.4 million to and that's set the other day through University of Maryland College Park; The research and development tax credits, which I believe are \$6 million as well; TEDCO stem cell funding of \$23 million. Is there anybody here that's on the TEDCO board, working with TEDCO? Good. Get that money out, will you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We are.

GOVERNOR O'MALLEY: Okay. Is it going to good things?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You bet.

GOVERNOR O'MALLEY: All right. I want a full report in the hallway after.

Number eight, we're also going to work State-wide to fund investment and intervention in transportation and transit oriented development, in line with smart growth initiatives. Well, why is that important? Is that tech related? Yes, it's tech related. Is that related to bio-technology and the whole gamut? I believe it is. Because if you look at the quality of life that we have in Maryland, transportation is really the thing that is the foundation that allows talented people to thrive and get to and from work without having to sit in four hours of traffic. It's a very, very important part of the quality of life that people factor into their decisions as to where to locate or relocate or even to go for a job interview.

People have to see us making progress. And we have the ability to – hugging the I-95 corridor and Amtrak – we do have some infrastructure here that we need to expand upon. We're going to be investing in greater MARC service. We are also going to be able to take the next steps on the purple line, as well as to continue the ICC. And also, we're going to be asking the legislation to create BRAC Smart Growth Zones to attract and retain businesses and families within the BRAC footprint.

And, we're going to be supporting and pushing rebuilding technology, new construction technologies, and a lot of other things having to do with energy and energy efficiency, which I believe can be another part of the diverse technology-related economy that we have here, that we as Marylanders are much more accustomed to leading rather than following when our country needs us. And certainly there's no State that needs to do it more urgently than ours when you look at energy costs and congestion in the transmission lines.

So in talking to our own businesses, you quickly figure out that businesses come and grow in Maryland for five primary reasons, I think. Its workforce, its location, it's

the transportation network, it's our quality of life, and it's the cost of doing business.

Maryland has tremendous strengths in all of those categories, our disagreement on the computer services tax notwithstanding. As we put together the budget that we delivered to the general assembly, in order to protect all of those priorities, one of the key things that we looked at from the Administration's standpoint was what will this do to our competitive status with the other States around us?

Now, I can't say that when we adjusted the corporate income tax that Virginia's still isn't lower. Virginia's is lower. It was lower when we started.

But we did try to look at where Pennsylvania was, where Delaware was, where the District of Columbia was as we defend our quality of life. And that's the greatest strengths we have and those are our competitive strengths for the future.

I really wish that I didn't have that to confront such a colossal shortfall and deficit when I came to office. Man, I would have loved to have had three years under my belt or four years and then not talk about it. (Laughter)

And then get re-elected and say, "Oh, golly day, you know what, we've been spending a lot faster than the revenues have been rising and all of a sudden now this has come to roost." I didn't have that luxury. Unfortunately, in the work that we're going to do today, we didn't have that luxury. And the people of our State didn't have the luxury.

My friend Ed Rendell in Pennsylvania gave me some great advice when I was first elected mayor. He had been Mayor of Philadelphia and he was pretty good at it, and now he's Governor of Pennsylvania and leading the State.

He said, "I'm going to give you some advice. I'm not going to give you any other advice unless you ask for it, but this is my advice." He said, "Make every decision as if you're not running for re-election. And what you will find over the course of time, even when people sometimes very vehemently disagree with you on some of the decisions you make – and they will disagree and that's their right – over time, not only will people recognize that you're trying to make decisions regardless of your temporary political popularity, but you'll also find that your batting average goes up. And at the end of the day, the only reward that any of us who choose to go into public service have is that we did our very best for the people that we serve while we were in here"

And that's what I've tried to do and that's what I'm going to continue to do. And I consider myself very blessed and very lucky that I'm able to serve with such creative, talented and courageous people in our State.

Thank you for what you do to make us great. We're going to be even greater in the future. Thanks. (Applause).



Tags: [bio](#), [council](#), [tech](#), [technology](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# 2008 State of the State Address

January 23rd, 2008

## Introduction

Thank you. If you all would remain standing for just one second — before I begin our talk here about the urgent business of building a better future for our State, there's some really important people here in the gallery and in the audience with us. I ran into the family of Officer Christopher Nicholson, the Smithburg officer who died in the line of duty protecting us. And in addition to that, we're joined by the family of Maryland Transportation Authority Police Corporal Courtney Brooks, who was tragically taken from us and we thank you for being here as well. Our hearts go out to you, and we'll never be able to repay the debt of gratitude we owe you, but we thank you for being here.

My friends, over the last year four State and local law enforcement officers and one firefighter gave their lives in the line of duty. And twenty of our sons and daughters gave their lives for us fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

So I ask you to just join me, before we talk here, in a moment of silence in their honor.

Thank you very much.

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, Mr. Chief Judge, Mr. Attorney General, Mr. Comptroller, Madam Treasurer, Mayor of the District of Columbia Adrian Fenty, former Governors, former Attorney General Joseph Curran, Judge Katie O'Malley, Ambassador Collins, Ambassador Bruton, my colleagues in local Government, men and women of the Maryland General Assembly, my fellow citizens.

We gather today in the very building where, since Revolutionary times, generation after generation, the people of our State have come to assess our strength and our weaknesses as a community and to decide how we will overcome the challenges of our times.

The most important days are not always the easy days, but time and time again we have overcome challenges because of our respect for the dignity of every individual, because of our commitment to the common good, and because we have had the courage to protect our priorities especially when we are faced with times of great adversity.

[Releases](#)

For these reasons Maryland has been a strong State and, in many respects, we're stronger today than we were at this same time last year. But the future of our State is very much determined by the strength and the security of the families of Maryland, the hardworking and loving families that we have the honor and the responsibility to represent in this place.

And today the vast majority of Maryland's families, like families throughout our country, are finding it harder and harder just to pay their bills and maintain the quality of life that they have worked so very, very hard to achieve.

And this is not just a Maryland problem, this is a national problem. For the sad truth of our shared reality is that over the last seven years, real wages in our country have risen by just about 1 percent. And, unfortunately, as all of us know, all of the other essential things that a family needs to survive have grown by a lot more than just 1 percent, haven't they?

Over the last seven years the price of a gallon of milk is up 30 percent, the price of a loaf of bread is up 20 percent, and yet real wages have only increased by 1 percent. The price of a gallon of gasoline, up 100 percent over those last several years. The price of health insurance is up 78 percent and yet real wages have increased in our nation by only about 1 percent.

Our families are struggling to get ahead, our parents are working harder and harder as national forces and trends keep pulling them back. A dollar that's being devalued by huge mounting national debt, rising unemployment in the nation, and look at the foreclosures — unprecedented in modern times.

Home foreclosures in our State alone are up 600 percent since last year. And, of course, we didn't need those numbers to tell us that, did we? We can see it in the eyes of the people that we serve, we can hear it in their voices. People are concerned, and rightly so.

No wonder then that so many of us were frustrated when in the midst of this national economic downturn we were also forced to confront a long neglected structural deficit. The frustration is totally understandable and there is good reason for all of us to be concerned and worried about our economic future.

But I submit to you that the way that we get through this, the way that we get through these tough times together and the way that we get through them more quickly than other States in the union is not by abandoning our priorities, but by protecting our priorities.

### **The Priorities That Unite Us in Maryland**

The most important things in life are not always the easy days, but our State has weathered difficult times before and we're going to weather these difficult times now.

And we're going to come through this more quickly than other States, but only if we can continue to protect the priorities of our people, to protect and strengthen our middle class, our family owned businesses and our family farms. To protect our communities so that we can improve public safety and public education in every part of our State and to protect opportunity; the opportunity to learn, to earn, to enjoy the health of the people we love, as well as the health of the environment that we love,

the Bay that we love — for more people rather than fewer.

Yes, to get through these tough times, my friends, the people of our State are working as hard as they can to protect their families and defend their quality of life. And in their hearts they expect us to do the same, even when it's not easy and even when it's not politically popular.

## **Restoring Fiscal Responsibility**

At this same time last year you will recall that days after officially inheriting a crushing deficit, this new administration presented a budget to you that had been cut by \$400 million. Months later we cut another \$280 million out of that budget. And over the last few months of important work we were able to reduce spending growth by another \$552 million.

The budget that we have now presented to you for consideration for this upcoming year actually comes in, for the second year in a row, under spending affordability. And because of the \$1.2 billion in cuts and spending reductions and because of the other difficult choices on revenues, we are able now to protect the priorities of our people. The priority of public education and school construction, the priority of public safety, the priority of more affordable health care.

And because you had the courage to restrain spending and restore fiscal responsibility, we can stand up and we can stand up this year to end the fast track to foreclosure that has been allowed to exist in the law in Maryland and we can also help thousands of families slipping into foreclosure. (Applause)

We can also hold the line against the rising cost of college tuition. Hardworking families in Maryland should be able to send their kids to schools in Maryland. Don't you think?  
(Applause)

Joining us in the gallery is a young man, returning Marine, proud son of our State, and he's going to be able to attend the University of Maryland College Park and he's going to be using the Veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq Scholarship Program that you created. He has returned home, completing his third tour of duty for us in Iraq and he's with us. I'd like you to acknowledge his presence here and the service of United States Marine Lance Corporal Will Amos. (Applause)

It's all about protecting the priorities of our people and we have now the ability to do that. And we also have the ability to make our Government work again. And to make our Government work on behalf of the best interest of the people of our State and that's what we're going to do.

The people of our State deserve a State Government that works as hard as they do.

## **Working For a Stronger Maryland**

Last year we implemented performance measured management and accountability on a level never before attempted in any other State, with the creation of StateStat. Today, 13 different departments or agencies are now participating in performance measured Government in order to improve efficiency and service delivery for the people of our State.

One year ago I came before you and pledged to make our port, the Port of Baltimore, a leader in Homeland Security, rather than a subject of ridicule on security. We're not there yet, but one year later I can tell you that our port, the closest deep-water port to our nation's capital, is more secure, is better prepared and also better equipped to deal with threats than we were at this same time last year. And I ask for your continued support as we bring in the best minds from around the country to take us to that next level of preparedness.

Last year we announced the formation of the BRAC subcabinet, led by Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. And since that time, after countless meetings and collaborations with businesses and military leaders, with our Congressional delegations and leaders of our towns and our cities and our counties, Lt. Governor Brown has allowed us not only to come together to publish a BRAC Action Plan for harnessing the opportunity of the thousands of jobs that are going to be coming to Maryland in the years ahead, but because of your help in restoring fiscal responsibility, we're now going to be able to make substantial progress towards implementing that plan.

Last year this administration pledged to develop a State-wide vision for transportation and because of the tough choices that you made, we are actually going to be able to move forward with making that vision happen. Moving forward with action. Action like resurfacing portions of I-58 and I-81 in Western Maryland.

Forward with the next phase of widening U.S. 113 on the Eastern Shore and the planning study to improve traffic flow and safety near Ocean Pines. And in Southern Maryland we're moving forward with major improvements in the Waldorf area.

We will also move forward with a more balanced plan of action for the next generation of mass transit in Maryland.  
(Applause)

Like expanded MARC service, dedicated funding for Metro and also the next steps in creating the purple line and the corridor city transit roads. (Applause)

And in Baltimore, Mayor Dixon will be moving forward with the red and green lines in Baltimore. (Applause)

Last year we also pledged to roll up our sleeves together to find ways to bring the rising costs of health care under control, while improving access for our people. And the Health Care Reform Act, which you passed two months ago, will ultimately allow us to cover more than 100,000 Marylanders who currently don't have insurance.  
(Applause)

And why is that important? Well, it's important on a whole number of levels. Certainly important for those 100,000 Marylanders and their families, but it's also important because it allows us to expand access to preventive care, which will, in turn, allow us to stabilize costs and provide incentives for many small family-owned businesses for the first time who want to join the ranks of the insured in our State. Thank you, Delegate Hammond and Senator Middleton for your hard work on that.  
(Applause)

Last year we also vowed to use open space dollars for the purchase of open space. But we started to do some other things as well. We start to apply performance measured management to the huge challenge of cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay

with BayStat. Hundreds of years ago John Smith made the first map of the Chesapeake Bay, we're constructing the second one. And this one will be a map that's parcelized, it allows GPS and that sort of coordination to bring together all of the efforts of agriculture, DNR, Department of Environment, Planning, and County Governments in order to see what we are doing in this critical Bay watershed and how we can do a better job of restoring her health.

We have more cover crop enrollments than ever before, while continuing oyster restoration efforts to help the Bay and our watermen. And with your creation of the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund, we can do even more in the upcoming year.

## **Public Safety and Violent Crime**

But as we look to the year ahead, I'd like to go back, too, and begin really again with the most fundamental priority and responsibility that any Government has to its people. And that is to safeguard the lives of our citizens, the safety of our citizens, our neighborhoods and our communities.

Public safety is the foundation of any civilized society and in Maryland we have the opportunity to make our State the safest State in the union, instead of allowing ourselves year after year to be ranked as one of the most violent States in the union.

For too long we've allowed ourselves to look at violent crime as a socioeconomic problem or some sort of thorny cultural problem or something that just defies solution because that's just the way it is.

And most sadly of all, that sort of defeatist, low expectation attitude is too often rooted in the opinions that we hold consciously and subconsciously of our fellow neighbors, because of differences of race or class or place.

But this problem of ours, this problem in Maryland, is not the concern of one race or one city or one county, it is everyone's problem. As Robert Kennedy told us 40 years ago, and I quote, "The victims of violence are black and white, rich and poor, young and old, famous and unknown, they are, most important of all, human beings, whom other human beings loved and needed.

Whenever any American life is taken by another American unnecessarily, whether it is done in the name of the law or in defiance of the law, by one man or a gang, in cold blood or in passion, in an attack of violence or in response to violence, whenever we tear at the fabric of a life, which another man has painfully and clumsily woven for himself and his children, the whole nation is degraded."

My fellow citizens, we've allowed our one Maryland to be degraded by violence for far too long. One of our highest priorities this year will be to fight back against violent crime — whenever and wherever it occurs in the State of Maryland.  
(Applause)

One year ago I shared with you, you may recall, how deeply concerned I was about how troubled so many of our departments that are involved in public safety were. Well, over the course of this year we have begun to make progress, we really have.

Working hard every single day to turn the situation around, so that our State gets

back into the business of supporting local police departments and communities everywhere in our State in the fight against violent crime.

Over the course of this last year we closed the House of Correction and we opened a safer and more modern facility. (Applause)

We also overhauled, at long last, Parole & Probation and the way that they had in the past of figuring out who should be at the highest level of supervision. We are now in a much better position and have already zeroed in on the most violent predators with far more intensive supervision.

We have better diagnostic tools also in place at Juvenile Services, so that we can prevent violence, heal families, and prevent the loss of young lives to homicide.

We have created a Violence Prevention Unit at Parole & Probation to partner with local police and prosecutors so that we can legally and quickly remove the most violent offenders from our streets before they can murder again. (Applause)

We have also created two Regional Gun Task Forces with local governments, including our neighbors in the District of Columbia, to take guns off our streets. Thank you, Mayor Fenty, for helping us do that. (Applause)

Led by General Maynard and also by Colonel Sheriden, we are systematizing the collection, the analysis and the relaying of gang intelligence to local police departments so they can act on it to save lives.

And finally, last year we were able to knock out what had become a really shameful backlog of 24,000 DNA fingerprints, if you will, that had been taken from those convicted of violent crimes, but had never been analyzed by our State crime lab. Can you imagine that?

Cases are now being solved, I'm glad to tell you. They're being solved, violence prevented, as Maryland finally makes better use of DNA fingerprinting and its potential to solve and prevent violent crimes.

And in the year ahead I want to ask for your support for several important things on this front. Number one, to add 50 additional officers to more closely and intensely supervise those who are released back into our communities on parole and probation.

Number two, to embark on a long overdue rebuilding of the minimal number of modern, regional facilities for our long, long ignored Juvenile Services system. (Applause)

Number three, to expand the utilization of modern GPS tracking technology so that we can save the lives of our most at-risk young offenders in some of our most challenged and violence-plagued neighborhoods, to save their lives and rescue them from the clutches of the hitmen and drug dealers.

Number four, I need your help to increase the availability of drug treatment programs, as well as community based programs like Operation Safe Kids. (Applause)

So that we can do a much better job of partnering with our county health



departments in order to save young lives.

But most importantly I urge your support for legislation that is supported by virtually every police chief in every town and county in our State. It is supported by virtually every prosecutor, every State's Attorney in the State of Maryland. And that is an expansion of our State's DNA fingerprinting efforts so that we can solve more violent crimes more quickly and put murderers and rapists behind bars before they murder or rape again. (Applause)

If you look at the evolution of this technology, it follows almost exactly the evolution that happened after the advent of fingerprinting. Eleven other States now, including Virginia, collect DNA prints from those that are charged with violent crimes. And given the level of violence that we have in our State, there really is no justifiable reason that Maryland should not be in the forefront of using this modern crime solving tool, rather than lagging behind.

### **Protecting the Priorities of our People**

Yes, to come through these tough times as quickly as possible, we must protect the priorities of our families. And we have tremendous challenges ahead of us.

On health care we need, in the coming year, to advance health care IT and to extend dental care for children so that no child in any county ever dies because of an inability to get dental treatment for a tooth ache. (Applause)

There are also thousands of Marylanders returning from service in Iraq and in Afghanistan. The modern day Maryland 400, if you will. And they were there for us. They went there for us, and we need to be there for them. And that's why I ask for your support and engagement on a series of bills, that the Lt. Governor has also been working on, to ensure that their health and well-being is protected when they come home to Maryland. We owe that to them. (Applause)

On improving Maryland's Homeland Security and preparedness many efforts are underway to better integrate emergency preparedness, emergency information sharing, and finally, to bring into service for the first time a truly statewide – that's a small S on statewide — a truly statewide system of interoperable communications so that all of our first responders will be able to talk to each other in the event of a large emergency.

I ask for your support as we bring former FEMA Director James Lee Witt, who I understand is with us today, to Maryland to assess our level of preparedness and make recommendations for making Maryland safer and better prepared in the face of natural and manmade threats.

On the health of the Bay, we have to continue to search for ways to make farming more profitable, we have to move as quickly as we can to upgrade our water treatment facilities and treatment plants. We also have to move quickly to fulfill our obligations with the District of Columbia and our other neighbors in the Bay watershed, importantly on this score, Pennsylvania and Virginia, in order to preserve and ultimately expand forest cover.

Last year you passed the Stormwater Management Act and you also passed the Clean Cars Act. This year I will ask for your support and for your ideas as we

search for ways to update our Critical Area Law, so that massive developments like the Four Seasons project on Kent Island, are prohibited at the first step in the process and not at the last step. Right, Governor Hughes? (Applause)

On education we must find better ways to recruit great principals to our most challenged schools, to improve outcomes in science, technology and engineering and math. Right, Chancellor Kirwan?

And we must do a better job of listening to our teachers in a regular systematic way, so that we are constantly improving the learning process and improving the working conditions in our classrooms that are so very essential to recruiting and retaining the highest quality teachers we possibly can for our kids.

And we also have to rededicate ourselves to reducing our drop-out rate with better career and technical programs available to high schools in every district where kids want them. (Applause)

On workforce creation I also ask for your support on proposals that will reduce the nursing shortage that exists throughout our State, and on our broader efforts to equip the 750,000 chronically under-educated adults in Maryland with the skills that they need to compete and to win and to care for their families in this new economy. We can and we must do better on this score. Workforce is critically important to Maryland's economic future. We have to build a new system for educating our adults and harnessing the potential of our entire workforce. Every single person matters.

There are Marylanders with disabilities who are talented and hardworking and want to get into the workforce with just a little bit of help and training.

Also, there are new Americans who remind us every day, in the words of Maryland's Harriet Tubman, that we were all once strangers in a strange land. And they have brought their talents here to build a better Maryland.

We must also better align the education needs of our adults with the workforce needs of our employers and I urge you to support our proposal to bring our adult education system into the 21st Century. (Applause)

In terms of our pursuit of a more sustainable future for the land, the air, the water that we share, I urge your support for new legislation to promote transit-oriented development. (Applause)

I also look forward to working with you in the development of science, technology and public education that it will take to combat climate change and improve energy conservation and energy efficiency and to make Maryland a leader in the development of renewable energy and green building techniques of all kinds.

Our country needs us and we've got to be there in the forefront. (Applause)

And of course, in order to protect Maryland's future, we must address Maryland's energy needs.

The task before us, as you so well know, is to develop a long-term plan for energy generation, distribution, and conservation. And it will not be easy. It will take a sustained commitment from our political leadership to turn that vision over time into

reality. The days of cheap abundant energy are past, but that does not mean that our only options are crippling energy bills and rolling brown-outs.

In the coming weeks, in the coming months, and in the coming years, we are going to be undertaking a number of efforts — legislative, regulatory — and, if need be, legal — to secure fair and reasonable energy rates while also ensuring an adequate supply for our future. Deregulation has failed us in Maryland and we cannot allow our future to be determined by that mistake. We have to move forward. (Applause)

## Conclusion

In conclusion, my friends, the most important days in life are not always the easy days.

As we work our way through the important and difficult days ahead, let's not forget the good that God has given us in our lives, of our families, of our friends, of our neighbors, and all of the people in this State, where our diversity is our strength, that we call home, our fellow Marylanders.

Let's stay focused on the fact that people are counting on us to make these tough times more bearable. Let's work together — regardless of personality, regardless of party or place — to face the challenges ahead.

We know that Maryland is a stronger State than most. We can get through these tough economic times more quickly than other parts of our country, but only if we continue to come together to protect the priorities that make us strong.

We come here to make a positive difference for our neighbors; that's why we come here. That's what Senator Britt did and that's what Delegate Lawton did. And that's what we are going to continue to do. We must take it from here, Bishop Muse, striving to do all that we can for the working people we have the privilege to serve and the one Maryland we carry in our hearts.

God bless you all and thank you. (Applause)



< 0



< 0



Share

Tags: [annapolis](#), [legislature](#), [sos](#), [state house](#), [state of the state](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Tech Council Remarks](#)

[Maryland Agriculture Council Annual Dinner](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Governor O'Malley Testifies on Proposal to Improve Public Safety

February 13th, 2008

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you very, very much for the opportunity to be with all of you today on a piece of legislation that is one of the probably most important pieces of our legislative initiative that the O'Malley/Brown administration has brought before you.

And it has to do with the challenge that our State confronts where violent crime is concerned. We are the fourth most violent State in the Union and there's really no good reason for it. We all need to fight back against violent crime and our State needs to become a much stronger and forward leaning partner with our local law enforcement. It is not local law enforcement by themselves or even the counties, towns, municipal law enforcement by themselves, but rather all of us together.

And to that end, we ask you to consider the administration's proposal to move to the next generation of what I like to refer to as the modern day next generation of fingerprint — that is, taking DNA swabs, a very uninvasive procedure, taken from the inside of a person's cheek, that are involved in our criminal justice system.

I am grateful to you, Chairman Frosh, for your courtesy in hearing from this panel and I believe you're hearing from others that will focus in on — we just came from across the street and a lot of the members over there wanted to ask us a lot of scientific questions, which made for good entertainment, but not for great answers. So, you know, there will be a scientific panel following us that can better engage in some of those CSI Miami or other questions on this.

I am joined by Attorney General Gansler, as well as the Superintendent of State Police Terry Sheridan, and Mr. Abbott, who works on the gang prosecutions out of the Attorney General's office, as well as others.

Today we urge your support for legislation that is supported by virtually every police chief in the State of Maryland. It is also supported by virtually every State's Attorney in the State of Maryland.

And why is that? Because when we increase the library of DNA samples in our State against which evidence can be matched from the scenes of crimes, we solve more crimes. We take more people off the streets more quickly and put them in jail for longer period of time so that they cannot murder, rape or harm other citizens

## Releases

among us. That, in essence, is what we are asking for you to do under this bill.

We have so many — if you look at so many of the tragedies that happen in our State, whether they're murders or rapes or other violent crimes. So often when you go through the background of the person who perpetrated these crimes you see missed opportunity after missed opportunity.

Here in Maryland these trends have been no different. While 11 other States have moved forward, by taking DNA samples from those arrested of certain classes of Felonies — mostly violent Felonies — we have yet to join those States.

One of whom who is already there is the State of Virginia, where they learned that approximately 40 percent of its violent crimes that they were solving were actually perpetrated by those who previously had had property crime involvement, mainly the burglaries, which we have added to the list, our wish list to you, as we try to come in to join Virginia and the standing criteria that they use.

Let me give you one case, please, as I take my seat. And that is the case of Leon Copeland, a career criminal. He had been arrested 16 times since 1976. Under the proposed legislation, DNA could have been collected at the time of those 10 arrests; arrests for alleged robberies and sex crimes — all in his past. Baltimore County charged him with a murder and a rape in 2000 and another rape in 2004 — all crimes dating back from 1986. It seems that Mr. Copeland may have left his DNA at the scenes of these crimes allegedly committed 20 years ago.

Sadly, since those heinous crimes were committed Leon Copeland was arrested for assault with intent to murder in 1986; that was missed opportunity number one. Arrested for robbery; that was missed opportunity number two. Arrested again for rape and robbery; missed opportunity number three. Arrested for first degree sex offense; missed opportunity four. And then Copeland was arrested for robbery with a deadly weapon; missed opportunity five.

Under the proposed legislation, law enforcement would have been able to have obtained a match from those crime scenes using DNA samples collected from Copeland on any one of those missed opportunities and, thereby, would have been able to prevent the crimes that he otherwise would have — that he did, in fact, commit, because he was still out on the street.

Had we been able to take DNA fingerprint at the time of these five arrests, we would have been able to charge him with murder and rape years earlier, preventing others from being murdered and raped in the future.

We have tremendous potential as a State, we have a long way to go and we have already come a long way.

Mr. Chairman, last year we were able to eliminate our State's DNA backlog of some 24,300 persons, from whom those DNA fingerprints should have already been taken. That's just in one year — 24,300.

We were also able to increase the number of hits, that is matching the evidence from crime scenes against that larger universe of DNA fingerprints, if you will. We were able to increase those hits by 51 percent. And if any of us — if we were able to spare just one person from being murdered or raped because of that, it would be

very difficult to put a price tag on this.

I ask you as we consider this and try to hone in on the actual cost of this to keep a couple of things in mind. It is hard to actually pin the tail on what the actual cost of this is ultimately going to be — somewhere between \$1.3 million to \$2.6 million. But I would submit to you that that is a fraction of what just one major city spends on police overtime alone in the course of a year. It is a fraction of what we spend at the Department of Corrections in an entire year, a fraction of what any County law enforcement agency spends.

And for us not to be able to do a better job with the technology, the evidence and the science that's available to us, to save lives, I think is an opportunity that we cannot allow to pass us by.

Every day that we fail to upgrade our ability to collect DNA fingerprints and be able to match up evidence and solve crimes, is another day when Marylanders are unnecessarily made vulnerable to repeat violent offenders again — and again and again.

And I urge your favorable consideration of this bill. Thank you.



Tags: [congress](#), [dc](#), [national](#), [testimony](#), [washington](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Maryland Agriculture Council Annual Dinner Foreclosure Press Conference](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Foreclosure Press Conference

February 19th, 2008

Thank you all very, very much for being here.

We're joined by Secretary Skinner and Secretary Perez, some of our partners from nonprofit organizations and also, Lieutenant Governor Brown.

And I wanted to take this opportunity to update you about a very serious challenge and crisis that we're facing as a country and as a State. It has to do with the rising numbers of foreclosures that are happening in our State. And I wanted to bring you up to date on some of the things that we're doing and also, quite honestly, ask for your help.

You know about fifty percent of people that go through foreclosure never bother to pick up the phone to call and ask for help. Half the people that go through foreclosures don't even bother to try to fight it. And they're ashamed, they put their head in the sand, assume that it's all beyond their ability to control it and never reach out for help.

So, any help that you could give us in getting out this number — it's 1-877-462-7555. That's 1-877-462-7555. That is a hotline number that connects our neighbors to our Department of Housing and Community Development.

And just as we encouraged people over the weekend, at a terrific forum that Congressman Cummings actually launched and initiated at Poly Western, we're encouraging people to call that number and we will do everything in our power to hook you up with a nonprofit housing advisor, counselor, who — without a profit motive getting in the way — can help you figure out how we might be able to help you fight this foreclosure, save your home, and mitigate the damage that is on the horizon.

We've been working very aggressively to address this problem and try to get in front of this wave. You all have seen actions and meetings taking place at the national level as well.

You've been hearing me talk about some 7,000 people that are going through foreclosure in the State of Maryland. Fourth quarter numbers are in and we learned that the numbers of homeowners facing foreclosure went up dramatically, jumping 39 percent from the prior quarter. So that's more than 9,700 homeowners facing foreclosure in the State of Maryland.



[Releases](#)

Our top priority as an administration is to strengthen and grow the ranks of our middle class. One of the greatest threats to the strength and the growth of our middle class is the growing number of foreclosures in the State of Maryland. It is an escalating national crisis that threatens our very way of life. It not only threatens the strength of individual families, but also neighborhoods and, in a very real way, the financial security of our families. The strength and health of our communities depends on our ability to respond to this crisis and to do everything we can to mitigate against the damage that it threatens to do to neighbors and to Maryland's middle class.

Together with Secretary Perez and Secretary Skinner, we're working every day to try to get ahead of this wave. Our ability to meet these goals, to protect our families, depends on our ability to keep as many families as we can in their homes.

### **STEPS TAKEN**

Let me update you on some of the steps that we have taken over the course of this last year.

We created the Bridge To Hope Loan Program, which offers small, no interest loans up to \$15,000 to help as many families as we can to get square and get up to date, so that they can then refinance their mortgages hopefully into a sustainable rate that they are able to maintain.

A lot of times families find themselves in the Catch 22. They can refinance, but only if they can get current on their mortgage payments. So if families were current on their mortgage payments, they wouldn't be picking up the phone and calling the 800 numbers to begin with.

So this Bridge To Hope loan is a \$15,000 no interest loan that we hope can be used with our housing partners, like St. Ambrose and other nonprofits, to help families get square so that they can then get into a loan that they can sustain.

And last summer, we provided more than \$1.2 million in grants to housing counseling organizations — \$1.2 million in grants to housing counseling organizations to provide them with more capacity to assist homeowners to refinance or restructure their loans.

We've also stepped up our enforcement efforts and authorized four new investigators to our Commissioner of Financial Regulations, to better enable us to respond to complaints that we were receiving from consumers about unscrupulous players that are in this business and, even worse, that come swooping in when families are headed into crisis.

We have proposed sweeping legislative reforms to tighten lending standards, crack down on fraud, and to lengthen the foreclosure process. Right now in our State we have a fast track to foreclosure. There is legislation pending in the general assembly that will slow that process down, because when families are facing the loss of their home, the two things they do not have are time and money. And that's especially true, given some of the outdated and draconian fast track to foreclosure laws that we have in our State.

I want to take this opportunity to urge the general assembly to act as quickly as



possible to pass those bills. Every day we wait leaves more people at risk. We need meaningful reforms to keep us from repeating this vicious cycle.

We also need to take some immediate steps that will provide relief now for families facing the immediate threat of foreclosure. Today I understand that we have now seen the approval of new emergency regulations that allow our Commissioner of Financial Regulation, Ms. Raskin, to collect data from loan servicers, detailing their loss mitigation and loan modification efforts.

What does that mean in English? It means that Maryland now will be only the second State in the nation that is collecting detailed information from loan servicers that will tell us exactly which families are headed into foreclosure, so that we can reach out to them with the array of services and also the proper counseling that can hopefully keep them in their homes.

It means that we'll be able to track what servicers themselves are doing to mitigate against this loss. And it also means that we will have targeted information on families in need so that our State can take proactive measures to help them stay in their homes.

Everyone in the mortgage industry has said that they want to help homeowners avoid foreclosure. You hear time and time again when people get together to discuss this that nobody wins in a foreclosure. Well, if nobody wins in a foreclosure, why is it that only two percent of those that are in foreclosure ever get out of it or renegotiate with the mortgage companies to stay in their homes.

Part of this stems from the fact that none of us were set up to handle this sort of crisis in the past. You know, it was all about sell, sell, sell, do whatever we could to get people into the homes. And there was not the mechanism set up at the national level with the big companies that are servicing these loans to help respond to the mitigation loss.

So, in addition, our Banking Commissioner, exercising her regulatory authority, has also done some other things. We've launched an examination of the practices of Ocwen, a major servicer of Maryland loans, after numerous complaints against the company.

And today, I am going to be sending a letter asking the major servicers of loans in our State to come to the table for an emergency work session next week to help us meet this challenge head on. I've asked them to come in on Tuesday, February 26th, and meet with us here at the State House.

Far too often, homeowners who try to take action to avoid foreclosure are unable to even get their loan servicer on the phone. We have been pumping money into the nonprofit entities that are out there and in every jurisdiction virtually of our State, but they encountered the same problems. Once they have a homeowner who is trying to renegotiate, it's very, very difficult for them to get the loan servicer on the phone, or anyone that has the authority to renegotiate that loan, so that we can mitigate against the loss.

Lieutenant Governor Brown and I are committed to providing significant State resources to help Maryland families avoid foreclosure. We have provided State grants to nonprofit housing counselors and direct financial resources to

homeowners. But we can't do this unless we can get the loan servicers to be more customer responsive and better partners with us in mitigating against this damage.

This is not something the government can do by itself. We need the loan servicers to join with us, not from some place out in Topeka, Kansas at a 1-800 number, but here in Maryland, so that we can reach out and do a better job of mitigating the damage that promises to be done to 9,700-some Maryland homeowners and their neighbors if we don't get in front of this and become much more aggressive and proactive in meeting this challenge.

We're prepared to offer Maryland resources, we're prepared to turn over the staff resources and further bolster the network of nonprofits to help in this. But if we can't get the loan servicers to the table to actually help us in this process, then all of this work is for naught.

So this meeting will give us the opportunity to sit down with the servicers, to let them know how much further ahead Maryland is than some other States and how willing we are to partner with them. But we really need them to come to the table.

## CONCLUSION

I want to thank you for joining us today.

But again to update you, fourth quarter numbers are in and the crisis continues to grow in our State, over 9,000 Marylanders are facing foreclosure. We have emergency regulations that were approved today, which will make Maryland only the second State in the nation to be able to require servicers to provide us with detailed information so that we can reach out to those that are facing foreclosure and hopefully mitigate against this damage with them.

Also, there is an examination that was opened up on Friday in response to unscrupulous — I mean, complaints of unscrupulous practices by consumers.

And, we are going to have an emergency work session here on February 26th where all of us will be sitting down with the major loan servicers, so that we can get ahead of this curve. We could become the first State in the nation that actually co-locates with authority, as people from the State and nonprofits and the loan servicers, so that we can show that we can actually do something in mitigating this damage and keeping more homeowners in their homes.

Thank you.



0



0



Share

Tags: [community development](#), [foreclosure](#), [home](#), [homeownership](#), [housing](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Governor O'Malley Testifies on Proposal to Improve Public Safety](#)  
[Celebrating Living History](#) »



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Celebrating Living History

February 28th, 2008

Welcome to the Living History Awards Ceremony. Let me begin by thanking Senator Verna Jones and our Legislative Black Caucus for their leadership throughout the year and also for the efforts that they've taken to pull us all together here this evening.

I also want to thank our colleagues who are here from local government. Some of you made a trek to come up here and I want to acknowledge Frank Cooper, the president of the Charles County Commissioners, and also Edith Patterson, Commissioner, and also I know Rick Pollitt is here, the County Executive of Wicomico County.

And Comptroller Franchot, thank you for being here as well tonight along with Delegate Mathias from Ocean City and each and every one of you, thank you for being here.

Also thank you to the talented young men and women who filled up this great space from Bowie State University. (Applause)

And, of course, the young people from Colors Performing Arts, who are always my favorite opening act. In Prince George's County, whenever the O'Malley/Brown campaign would roll through there, they were always there, faithful and true. So it's great to see you guys and thank you for coming down here this evening. (Applause)

It's also good to see members from our Commission on African American History and Culture here as well.

We are coming together during an important month, a time when we talk about our African American ancestors, the generations of hardworking Marylanders who sacrificed to create a better State for not only their own children and their children's children, but also for all of us who share in this part of God's plan for this great State of Maryland.

We talk about legacies and we talk about the movements that brave men and women from every race, class and creed have led together to make real the revolutionary principles of our nation nearly 190 years after our revolution.

But these are not the dreams from some long-ago distant past; the trials, the triumphs, the adversities. They are living history also of those who choose by their

## Releases

actions, by their talents, every single day to prove that there is more that unites us than divides us.

For Tyrone Taborn it is in the building of partnerships, collaborations, to expand opportunity for our children, creating pathways to success in our changing global economy, building on the strengths of our neighbors, through a lifetime of learning, of searching.

For Lucille Clifton it is in the words of hardship, of hope, of those larger things that extend beyond any one generation, beyond outworn cynicisms to the essence of our human spirit.

For Dr. Henry Brooks, and the people of goodwill he leads at the Maryland Cooperative Extension, it's an application of our rural traditions through the challenges of these modern days, using our shared values and our understanding of nature and community to strengthen our families and defend our quality of life.

So tonight we have the occasion to celebrate their hard work, their talents, their achievements — those things that have kept our State moving forward, and tomorrow we'll return to the hard work of forging a better future.

And that's really where our greatness lies, isn't it? It's not any one decade or movement or for one life — it is the sum of all those experiences together that create that arc of history that "bends towards justice," in the words of Dr. King.

For all of the different fields that Tyrone Taborn, that Lucille Clifton, that Dr. Henry Brooks have chosen, all of those different paths have at least all brought us here to this point in time. And from here we move forward.

You know, I've heard our State's flag described once by the architect of the Reginald Willis Museum. He described the colors of our flag, saying that the black and white are the shades that distinguish us, the red of our flag is the blood that has come onto all humanity that all of us share as children of God, and the gold is the opportunity that the future holds for us, if we should choose to pursue it, that better future, together.

And that's our freedom and that's our responsibility — to leave our State a better place than we found it. In our State, in our One Maryland, where our diversity is our strength and there is no such thing as a spare American.

I ask you also tonight to remember the family of Specialist First Class Micheal Matlock, who was laid to rest. Many of you on your way down here might have noticed the colors of our flag at half mast. It is for that neighbor of ours, African American proud hero, who left behind a young wife and a one year old baby. There are many people who are called upon to do far more for the future than we have been blessed and fortunate to be called upon ourselves.

But tonight is a night of celebration, celebration of the things that bring us together, and also a celebration of the rich, proud, ongoing history of African American people here in our great State of Maryland.

Thank you. (Applause)

Tags: [african american](#), [black caucus](#), [celebration](#), [history](#), [living](#)



0



0



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Foreclosure Press Conference](#)

[Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program – Subsidy for Medicare Part D](#)

[Coverage Gap and Sunset Extension \(2008\)](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# University of Maryland, Baltimore BioPark Building Ceremony

March 31st, 2008

This is an exciting day, isn't it? Turn to your neighbor to the left and say, it's an exciting day. Now turn to the neighbor to the right and say, boy, this is an exciting day. All right. Everybody happy?

This is a terrific day. It really, really is. I want to thank Senator Cardin, I want to thank Congressman Cummings for their leadership, for their inspiration. And I also want to thank Mayor Sheila Dixon. And when we worked together in the years that we were able to serve together, Mayor Dixon, we worked together in partnership for that better tomorrow for Baltimore, that better tomorrow for all of Baltimore.

And, Dr. Ramsay, thank you for your vision. Thank you for believing in your institution, believing in the people that work there, believing in your neighbors, and believing that one person can make a difference, and that each of us must try.

It is very rare in life that you ever see the fruits of those sorts of collective labors start to manifest themselves as quickly as we have seen now on this side. Not the other side, but this side of Martin Luther King Boulevard. And it's happening. It's happening today. (Applause)

There were so very many hurdles that came in each stretch of this. Ken Banks spoke eloquently of what used to be here. And Congressman Cummings talked about not being blinded by what we see. If there's a theme running through all of these remarks, it's that we have to have the courage to paint the bullseye if we're ever going to hit it.

That's what we had the courage to do years ago and now we're hitting it. We're hitting it in big ways, we're hitting it in small ways, we're hitting it not only with bricks, not only with mortar, not only with new buildings, but with new talent, with new hands and with new possibilities, which is the most exciting thing of all.

I want to thank all of the members of the BioPark board. Many of them also serve on other important boards, like the Life Sciences Advisory Board. I know Philippe Jacon is here, I also know Dr. Edward Rudnick, who serves on our State Workforce Investment Board.

Maryland's future and, indeed, perhaps even the planet's future, is going to depend

[Releases](#)

on what we're doing here and now. What we're doing here and now to unleash what Dr. Jeffrey Sachs has referred to as the weapons of mass salvation; those cures, those sciences, those technologies. Those things that can heal and breathe life not only into these blocks of Poppleton, but breathe life into families and villages and places far, far away from here in order to keep faith with the revolutionary people that we have always been.

Maryland is already a leader in life sciences and biotechnology. I mean, you heard the numbers that Senator Cardin talked about, that we're third in the country. We're third in some other important things, too. Not only in the research that comes here, not only in life sciences and biotech jobs, but we also have the third best public school system of any State in the entire United States of America. We also have what Forbes magazine calls – hardly a publication of the tourism board of the City of Baltimore – Forbes magazine says that our State has the third most highly skilled workforce of any State in the United States of America.

You know, during tough times, it becomes very easy to become so obsessed with the challenges of today that we fail to take stock of the blessings and the strengths that we have today.

We become so obsessed with the challenges of today – and we must meet them – but we often lose sight of the great hope that we have for tomorrow.

Maryland is a leader in life science; Maryland is going to continue to be a leader in life science. As we defend important investments like stem cell research, like TEDCO, like NanoBio and all of these other things, keep in mind that the most important asset we have of all for the future is the heart and the desire and the belief that we have a calling for greatness – that the rest of the world and the rest of the country needs us. That's what these bricks and these mortars symbolize and it is a powerful force once unleashed that can never, ever be stopped.

Thank you all very, very much. I'm honored to be your fellow citizen. (Applause)



0



0



Tags: [baltimore city](#), [bio tech](#), [biopark](#), [building](#), [ceremony](#), [groundbreaking](#), [umd](#), [university](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Real Property – Recordation of Instruments Securing Mortgage Loans and Foreclosure of Mortgages and Deeds of Trust on Residential Property \(2008\)](#)  
[Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remarks](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901





THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remarks

April 4th, 2008

Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for the introduction. Thank you for the opportunity to join with all of you, my fellow citizens, on this very important day. The Lieutenant Governor and I consider ourselves very honored that we have the privilege to serve with all of you, especially in these important times in our country's history. It's a great honor to be with you on this day in recognition not only of the remembrance of the date of the death of Martin Luther King, but more importantly of the life, the vision, the dream, the beauty and the gift that was and is the spirit of Dr. King.

Of all the great truths he spoke during his 39 short years, I find myself turning to this one. He said, "Human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts and persistent work of the men and women willing to be coworkers with God." On this day 40 years ago, the life of Dr. King was taken by the bullet of an assassin. And yet four decades later, the cause he worked so hard to defend presses on in his spirit and his vision, the urgency of the work for which he called our country presses on.

I was about five years old when Dr. King was assassinated. I don't have many vivid memories of him when he was living. I do remember, still as a boy, my father once saying to me that when the great public figures of this age are long forgotten, Dr. King will still be remembered.

There are still too many in our state and nation who lack the opportunity to improve their own lives, to raise their families in dignity and in the light of an open society. There are too many young lives lost at the hands of drug dealers and drug peddlers; too many lives tragically taken from us because of violence; too many children who go to bed at night hungry, who go to school hungry. Now more than ever we need to hold true to the life and spirit of Dr. King. More than remembrance, ours is a responsibility of action, when there is no place in our state for quiet injustice. Unbroken in the last 40 years has been the vision he proclaimed for our nation of individual dignity, of community, and of opportunity for all.

Today we remember in the name of love that there is more that unites us and divides us, and as one people we rededicate ourselves to the hard work, the tireless effort of building a better and stronger state and a better and brighter tomorrow for the next generation. Thank you all again.



0



0





[Releases](#)

Tags: [black history](#), [mlk](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [University of Maryland, Baltimore BioPark Building Ceremony](#)  
[Governor Announces Decision Regarding Wind Power Generation on Public Lands](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Governor Announces Decision Regarding Wind Power Generation on Public Lands

April 12th, 2008

## INTRODUCTION

Thank you all very much. Secretary Griffin, thank you for your leadership. And thank you all for your leadership as citizens. Robert Kennedy once described the greatest of freedom's privileges as being the privilege to choose to be responsible for building a better future for our kids and for our grandkids and for future generations. And I think that's why at your core and in your heart you came out here this early morning and why you've come to so many of the public hearings on this important issue.

Let me thank Senator Edwards and also Delegate Beitzel and all of the elected officials who are here, and also county commissioners, people like Fred Holiday and the others who are here with us today. Last time I was in Western Maryland I was approached by Mayor McCain because I was wearing a tie. (Laughter) And Asa said, "Don't ever come out to Western Maryland wearing a tie again." And now look how he's dressed. So I listened, I've learned.

I also understand that there was a black bear that came running across here just about five minutes ago, before the event began. It was not the appearance of the news cameras that scared him off the mountain, it was Senator Edwards rounding the corner. (Laughter)

And I also just want to point out before we get to the business of today that for the last 14 months we've really been digging out of the basement, the big hole, the big deficit that was left to us, that really threatened a lot of our priorities. I know many of you are aware of the importance of the Rural Legacy Grants. We had to be able to preserve those. Rather than doing what had been done in the past and robbing Program Open Space and shortchanging the future in order just to pay our bills today, we preserved every dollar of Program Open Space for that open space. (Applause)

And one of the big natural threats that has been affecting a lot of the woodlands and the forests in Garrett County has been the gypsy moth. We were able to greatly increase dollars, thanks to Senator Edwards and Delegate Beitzel and other

## Releases

members of the General Assembly. We were able not only to preserve our gypsy moth containment and eradication dollars, we were actually able to increase the dollars for gypsy moth eradication. (Applause)

These are all the things that a reasonably thinking and responsible people should be doing. We all have our differences from time to time on policy. There's always a tremendous public clamor to cut government – it's become very fashionable. But we don't want to cut government if it cuts out and damages the things that are our priorities, the things that make Garrett County what it is. The things that make it a place where people who appreciate God's natural beauty and wonders can come and reconnect not only to nature, but also to their own souls. So we're going to protect those priorities. We're going to continue to protect those priorities, even in tough times.

It's hard to think of Garrett County without realizing how very, very blessed we are as Marylanders to have this sort of beauty in our State. We have so many natural resources in our State of Maryland, even as small as we are geographically. This county, this land of Maryland's highest mountain, our largest forest, our biggest freshwater lake, is certainly one of the most beautiful places not only in Maryland, but anywhere in this country. There's an old Native American saying which teaches that we do not inherit the earth, we borrow it from our children. And just taking a look around here reminds all of us of that as well.

### **PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES**

When Lt. Governor Brown and I took office and took that oath and agreed to do our very best to protect your priorities during this temporary time that you give us the power and the trust to make the important decisions, where the buck stops, we promised that we would do everything we could to expand the opportunity to learn, to earn, to enjoy the health of one another, but also importantly to enjoy the health of our environment — the land, the air, the water that all of us depend upon, not just for ourselves but to expand that opportunity for future generations.

Now, how many of you have turned out on one night or another for the public hearings that we had about the windmills proposed on these public lands? Show of hands.

Well, I'll have you know that that testimony came rapidly to me from Secretary Griffin, through the miracle of the State satellite and my Blackberry. And over the past year, working together as one Maryland, we've made some tremendous strides to building a more sustainable future. We've done a number of things, some of them I've mentioned, but others that come into play here with this announcement today.

We face a huge moral dilemma — not just as a State, not just as a country, but really as a planet — when it comes to developing new forms of energy, cleaner forms of energy, that are renewable and allow us to preserve the beauty that we have for future generations.

We have created a Climate Change Commission, we fought for and signed into law the Clean Cars Act. We launched Empower Maryland, setting some of the most ambitious goals in the nation to decrease our per capita consumption of energy by 15 percent by 2015. We led the charge to hold the first auction of greenhouse gas

emission credits in the nation and to make solar energy more affordable and to prioritize smart growth.

And as part of that we also passed legislation that would encourage us to find new and renewable forms of energy for 20 percent of our energy portfolio, which brings us to this announcement today.

Part of that mix will be solar, part of that mix will be geo-thermal, part of that mix — we hope — will be cellulosic ethanol. Part of that mix will be things that we have not even imagined or discovered yet, but that we must. And part of that mix will also necessarily be wind power.

## **WIND ENERGY ANNOUNCEMENT**

And that's what brought us to this decision today. There was a request to put windmills right across that ridge of this publicly held land. And the challenge that created for us was if we want to make strides on having more renewable forms of energy, what is the balance that we have to strike when people come forward and say they would like to do this on publicly owned lands.

We listened to you, we listened to the scientists, we listened to those that are looking out for our energy future, and we listened to all of our fellow citizens. And we've made the best decision that we feel we must do in order to protect our priorities.

And that is this. We are announcing that we have decided not to open our State parks and public lands to wind power. (Applause)

I appreciate all of you, I really, really do. A person said to me as they introduced themselves, she said, I'm just a citizen. Well, you're not just a citizen, you're the people that all of us work for. You are our bosses. And I appreciate your suspension of cynicism and disbelief and taking part in a public process. That's hard to do in this day and age, because there's so much cynicism in this world.

We heard you and we are going to continue to look for opportunities to develop more renewable forms of energy in our State, to do so in a way that are not only renewable, but that are also sustainable and also, hopefully, affordable so that we don't experience some of the jolts and shocks and spikes that we've seen as we move from a regulated to a deregulated environment.

But we also have to balance with that our sacred responsibility to the future. You know, in the preamble of the Constitution our founders talked about rights and they talked about freedoms. They also talked about security. And they talked about securing these blessings of liberty, if you will, not only for ourselves, but also for our posterity. And that's what we're committed to doing.

And the open lands and the open space are things that we absolutely have to do our part to preserve for future generations. Nobody is going to do that in this time for us. We can't call on the souls of our grandparents and great-grandparents to do that for us. We have to find that within ourselves.

In the end, we could not justify the consequences that commercial wind would have on this land, this publicly held land in Garrett County. This precious resource is too

valuable to our State, whether it's for tourism, whether it's for the headwaters of the bay, the Potomac and other things and for hunters, and the rest, for our fish and for our wildlife it provides a habitat, it helps improve our air quality.

## NOT A REJECTION OF WIND ENERGY

But before I close, I also want to stress what this decision should not be misinterpreted to mean: this is not a rejection of wind power in the State of Maryland. It is not a rejection of wind power. I wish that our world were as simple and as thought out and mapped out for us that we could make those sorts of decisions of winners and losers. The truth is, we have to find a mix of more sustainable energy, we have to wean ourselves off this dependence on foreign oil and our constant subsidizing of the petro-Jihadists. We don't want to have our kids bogged down for decades and decades in desert wars. And so, we have to develop more sustainable energy.

And part of that mix is, by necessity, going to be some wind power in our State, as part of our portfolio. But it is a decision to focus our efforts on promoting wind power on private sites, instead of in State parks and publicly held lands. We're working on putting, for example, small windmills on schools, we're exploring a variety of options for commercial scale on-shore and off-shore wind power.

But as we move forward and continue to find ways to harness the potential of various forms of renewable energy, we're going to be sure to do so in a way that doesn't threaten or cause us to lose forever precious open spaces and public lands like this one that all of you have fought so hard to protect.

## CONCLUSION

Two decades ago, a great American philosopher by the name of Bob Dylan wrote, "Man thinks because he rules the earth he can do with it as he pleases. And if things don't change soon, he will." Today things are changing in our State. The Washington Post put it this way, they said that an "eco-friendly era has arrived in Maryland."

We're making progress because we've had the courage to come together as one Maryland to protect our priorities. And with your help and with your continued involvement, with open minds, with open hearts, and with the responsibility to the better future that we want to pass on to our kids, that's what we're going to continue to do. And we're going to look to the people of Western Maryland to help us lead the way.

Thank you all very, very much. (Applause)



Tags: [garrett county](#), [mountains](#), [power](#), [public lands](#), [western maryland](#), [wind](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remarks](#)



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Testimony before the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education

April 22nd, 2008

## INTRODUCTION

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Subcommittee, welcome to the great State of Maryland — we are honored to have you here. Before I offer some words in support of the legislation you are considering today, I wanted to take a brief moment to recognize Congressman Sarbanes, whose leadership and partnership have been so critical to our efforts to return Maryland to progress.

Mr. Chairman, Martin Luther King said that the mark of a true education is “intelligence plus character.” That’s really what this legislation is about. If we truly wish to prepare our children for the challenges of tomorrow, we must recognize that education can be about so much more than reading, writing and arithmetic.

At its core, true education is about teaching our children to be responsible citizens of the world – about instilling them with the ideal that each individual can make a difference, and that all of us must try.

And when better than Earth Day to discuss ways to impress upon our children the virtue of service to the common good? – This time we set aside to remind ourselves that all of us must “think globally and act locally” – that each of our individual actions have global consequences, and that there is a unity to spirit and matter, and the things we do in this life do matter.

## WHY THIS LEGISLATION MATTERS

The No Child Left *Inside* legislation is designed to help those of us at the State level who have a vision for education which believes that connecting students with nature is an essential part of their development as global citizens. It is rooted in the hope and belief that today’s young people will do a better job caring for our planet than, quite frankly, our generation has wrought.

When it comes to our kids’ attention, nature has a lot of competition these days. Between television, Facebook, video games and other distractions, it’s fair to say that going for a hike or enjoying the outdoors is not always on the top of every

## Releases

child's wish-list.

And, in these difficult economic times, when parents are working harder and struggling to pay bills, it can be difficult to find the extra time – or for those who do not live in proximately to open space, the extra money – to share the outdoors with their children.

That's why schools can play such a special role in bringing our young people closer to nature.

### **SUPPORTING OUR EFFORTS IN MARYLAND**

As we work at the state level to implement more environmental education opportunities in our schools, the No Child Left *Inside* bill would provide significant assistance by providing grants and support, and counterbalancing portions of the No Child Left *Behind* law which scaled back hands-on learning opportunities and environmental education.

Let me share with you, for a moment, some of the initiatives in Maryland we hope this legislation would help support.

Yesterday, I signed an Executive Order which directed our state agencies to work in concert with local, private and non-profit partners on expanding environmental education. We created what we call the Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature and charged it with three main tasks:

- To develop an Environmental Literacy Plan that will create a statewide strategy for implementing environmental education opportunities in schools. I would like to note that No Child Left *Inside* would provide resources for states to help develop these plans. In developing our statewide strategy, we will examine model programs, curricula, and professional development opportunities for teachers. We will take a hard look at the environmental literacy of our graduating high school students. And, as has been the hallmark of our efforts to make government work, we will engage in relentless follow-up and analysis to measure our success and identify areas in need of improvement.
- To connect existing camps and other outdoor programs to state learning standards – and to increase participation of underprivileged and minority students. We already have some promising initiatives underway which are targeted at disadvantaged young people from underserved urban communities. Beginning this summer, participants will earn an hourly wage while conducting conservation projects, engaging in nature immersion experiences, and developing marketable job skills for our increasingly green economy. We have a similar program for court-involved youth.
- To increase opportunities for learning and recreation in natural settings. To implement this vision, we are:
  - Working to connect communities with parks via walk-able trails;
  - Working with private and local entities to create and improve natural play zones in the undeveloped pockets of local parks and neighborhoods;

- And, converting asphalt and empty lawns into natural landscapes.

## CONCLUSION

Mr. Chairman, as we recognize Earth Day, we must also recognize that the decisions we make in the here and now will determine what type of planet we leave our children.

Will we create a generation of environmental stewards who realize humankind's sacred responsibility to our land, our water, and our air? Will they treat our planet better than we did? Will they allow the circumstances they inherit to change them, or will they feel that desire in their hearts to change their circumstances?

If we invest in environmental education today, it is our belief that there will come a time when our young people graduate high school not only with the intellectual ability to tackle complex environmental challenges – but also with the will and desire to care for and save our planet.

Thank you.



0



0



Tags: [congress](#), [dc](#), [early childhood](#), [national](#), [subcommittee](#), [testimony](#), [washington](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Governor Announces Decision Regarding Wind Power Generation on Public Lands](#)  
[Chizuk Amuno Synagogue Remarks](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901





THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Cinco de Mayo Celebration

May 5th, 2008

Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, thank you very, very much. These last fifteen months have had their difficult moments, but I never doubted that this guy always had my back and he has been a tremendous leader – and really, an inspiration to our Administration.

Anthony has been a tremendous part of what successes we have had in this Administration, always encouraging us on, always telling us that night is darkest before the dawn and you have to keep going. So Anthony, thank you for your leadership in this Administration.

Let me say to all of my fellow Marylanders, *Bienvenido!* Welcome to your Government House.

Happy Cinco de Mayo!

I want to thank Delegate Gutierrez and Delegate Peña- Melnyk, who is here with us from the gorgeous Prince George's County (Applause).

Tom Perez passes on to you his regrets that he could not be here.

Adam Ortiz, Mr. Mayor, thank you for being here tonight for Cinco de Mayo (Applause).

We also have with us Judge Dolores Briones (Applause).

I also want to offer a special word of thanks and recognition for Maria Welch and Ruby Stemmler, who are Chair and Executive Director, respectively, of our Commission on Hispanic Affairs (Applause).

Just as in our household, we are surrounding ourselves with strong women at the top (Laughter).

That's the way it should be (Laughter).

We are also joined, ladies and gentleman, by a gentleman who has for the third time, brought home the new Championship this year by the Baltimore Blast, Mario Margiocco (Applause), soon to be on the Governor's Commission for Health and Fitness coming your way (Laughter).

I would also like to say a word of thanks to all of you that are serving on various

## Releases

boards and divisions.

I thank you for the time that you have given to these because sometimes, when you think to yourself, I'm going to one more meeting and my spouse, whether it is your husband or your wife, are wondering why you are going to one more meeting, it is not only important for the commission you are on, but for this growing part of Maryland's beautifully diverse population that is important for the whole.

In other words, when our community feels plugged in and have somebody that they can go to on various boards and commissions – that creates that sort of spirit of oneness that Lt. Governor Brown and I talked about and what we want for the State of Maryland. So, when you are at that commission meeting on Health and Fitness, be mindful that all of these other folks that have served on all of these boards and commissions are doing a terrific job.

Octavio Paz wrote that *"today we all speak, if not the same tongue, the same universal language."*

He also said that *"what sets the world in motion is the interplay of differences."*

That's what we have here in our One Maryland.

Overlooking this gathering tonight is, from what I am told, the best portrait ever done of General Washington, which was done actually during the campaign. I don't know how he had time to fight the British and sit down to do a portrait (Laughter).

That portrait has been here on many important and special nights. It's here tonight; it was here when our Muslim brothers and sisters were in this house for the very first time breaking fast here in the State of Maryland as a community and a Government House.

It is from that diversity that we really derive our powers – especially in conflict, where we see two really ugly situations coming together at the same time as they have before in our history. When you have the national downturn and the rise of nativism at the same time in our country, it can become very hard to keep sight of the fact that this is our motto, "E Pluribus Unum," or, "from many, one."

It is difficult to keep that hopeful spirit alive. That this is the place — because of its freedom, because of its welcoming; because of its respect for the dignity of every individual, because of the sense we share for our own responsibility to advance the common good — we are in a place where differences really can come together; where we can work through these things, and in the process, we are able to do work that not only honors our grandparent's grandparents, but it actually makes our children's children's world a far better place.

I think that's the reason why you do what you do every day and I think that is the reason why many Americans do what they do every day.

I know that's the reason why Lt. Governor Brown and I wake up every day, doing the best we can in acknowledging that there is a flow and there are seasons where seeds of change can be planted. There are times for harvesting; there are times for winter. And frankly, over this last session, we had to do a lot of the duck and cover to keep bad things from happening.

In October, I signed an Executive Order which expanded the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs. We elevated it to an executive level by placing it in the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, while increasing the number of commissioners and extending its focus to include economic, workforce, business and community development initiatives.

I'm also very glad that we have been able to elevate Izzy Patoka, who many of you work with in the City of Baltimore. Izzy now not only heads the Office of Community Initiatives, but he also heads our Intergovernmental Affairs office, which means he is also dealing with local governments. I know I met some people in Frederick that were having their local government challenges, so Izzy is that intersection where we are doing everything to unleash some power not only to new Americans in our State, but also make sure that we are able to integrate them with the efforts that we have going on in our local governments.

We have brought leaders from business, government, and the community to the table to draw upon the greatest thoughts and talents. Our commissioners have proven that they are very committed to taking a national role, sitting on steering committees of the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. We want to prioritize their work because of their contribution to our State and actually, it's only going to grow. For those of us from the Washington area, we have seen the expedient growth, and those of us from Baltimore, who are only seeing it more recently, are seeing Baltimore rebuild and remake herself.

We have several members of our committee who are contributing to our State government. One I met with at the breakfast table just this week, Rosa Garcia, who serves on our State Board of Education. I met Mr. Knight the other day and you would be so proud of what your State is doing for our returning veterans. So I want to thank Mr. Knight, who serves on our Veterans Commission; as well as Abraham Fernando Carpio, who serves on our State Real Estate Commission; and Jose Sanchez, who serves on our State Planning Council.

I also want to thank the band, Grupo Latino, who have done a terrific job filling this place with music. One great part of the Mexican culture is the holiday we celebrate today and I know that at the core of every people in the world can celebrate. When they realize what they have in one another, they are able to come together and overcome great adversity to make a better world for their children.

And that is it really, whether it is the Fourth of July, or Cinco de Mayo, it is a universal, heartfelt human story. When we are able to summon together our highest angels to serve the politics of prosperity, the politics that make this place a better world for our children and theirs.

I want to thank you all for what you have been doing for many, many years, and what together we are going to do in the coming years. We have been up here planting a lot of seeds of change and our best days as a country, not withstanding the dark clouds that come over us, are still ahead of us. We just have to remind one another of the politics of prosperity — what it requires, what it takes and how important that is.

So thanks very, very much.



0



0



Tags: [annapolis](#), [celebration](#), [cinco de mayo](#), [government house](#), [hispanic](#), [history](#),

[mexican](#), [mexico](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Chizuk Amuno Synagogue Remarks](#)  
[Hagerstown's Capital for a Day Announcement](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Howard Community College Remarks

May 16th, 2008

Thank you all very, very much. Elias, thank you for that introduction. I had forgotten myself I had done some of those things.

Congratulations to all of you. And, thank you, President Heatherington and congratulations to you on your first year here. It's not every first year president that wins a national award at Howard Community College.

That 2007 U.S. Senate Productivity Award is something that all of you should be very, very rightly proud of. It is a scary thing for any public institution to actually measure performance and outputs and productivity. But that's what your president has chosen to do because she's a courageous person who builds on the things that have come before and is willing to take it to the next level.

To the trustees who are here and to the members of the faculty who are so rightly proud this night, to County Executive Ken Ulman, and all of the members of the Howard County Council, who are rightly proud of the fact that Howard County, I do believe, last year had the highest elementary test scores of any county in the State. And if you doubt that, Liz Bobo will confirm it with a nod — yes, we do.

And to the members of the General Assembly, other platform guests — especially to the parents and grandparents, the sons and daughters, who are with us today, thank you for the love and the tears and your patience in standing beside these graduates. Give yourselves a round of applause.

We would not be here, awash in this excitement, were it not for your support of the fine people that are walking down this aisle.

I am hopefully only a few years from seeing my oldest walk down the aisle some place, hopefully, please, Lord, in State. So I have some personal motive for wanting to freeze tuition to four year colleges and provide adequate funding. I don't deny it, I don't deny it. It's a confluence of interests. It's an interest in the future. I'm looking forward to it.

I can remember when my wife finished up her last year of law school. We had a little baby at home, we had another on the way, and somehow we — especially she — made it through and today, so have you. And I know there's individual stories like that throughout this big tent under which we gather.

## Releases

To the class of 2008, I just want to say congratulations ... you did it!

You are part of the largest graduating class in the history of this institution. And today in caps and gowns, there is a sea of 701 unique and beautiful stories.

Stories of people like Naeema Sandy, who in a few moments will receive certifications in chemical dependency and mental health. Members of her family were taken from this world because of alcohol and drugs and now she is taking that pain and she's turning it into promise. She's turning it into service to others.

Stories of people like April Waskey, who started taking classes at this college in 1978 and then as other things in life came bumping along, she now, 30 years later, after much hard work, perseverance, and a never-give-up attitude is moments away from receiving her degree. (Applause.)

Stories of people like Alex Estevez, who worked for years in the mail room at 20th Century Fox — remember this name — dreaming of someday answering a yearning in his soul to study art. And today he becomes the first person in his family to graduate college and he plans to further his studies so he can become an art teacher.

Now, Naeema, April, Alex and all 698 of your closest friends as we celebrate you today, as we honor your struggles, your endurance and your achievement, we also celebrate passage. We celebrate transition. And we celebrate a very high and eternal commitment, we rejoice in fellowship and friendship and we pray. We pray in thanksgiving for the gifts that we have as citizens of this great State, of this great country. We pray in anticipation of the joy and the opportunities that we know and we hope lie ahead for us.

And mostly we pray that the Governor will be as brief as Ken Ulman, so we can go home to our parties and our friends and our dinner, right? (Applause.)

Well, I will be brief, but I have to, as the keynote speaker, share with you just a few thoughts.

I have, first of all, some good economic news for all of you that are about to go out into the workforce or continue to join it with higher skills. And here's the good economic news — over the most recent period our nation lost 80,000 jobs. In Maryland, we added 3,600 in that same time period. (Applause.)

Some more good news. While the unemployment rate in our country, the leading indicator that we watch, in Maryland, we are about 30 percent below the national unemployment rate. So we do have jobs we are creating because of institutions and our intellectual capital. (Applause.)

Places like Morgan Stanley and T. Rowe Price moving 2,000 jobs to Maryland. The BRAC realignment and closure process — you know, the bases, our military installations are growing, that's 60,000 more jobs coming to Maryland, and exports in our State actually rose by 32 percent in the first quarter.

So for all the dour news nationally, our State, our strong State, where we do value the most important asset and resource of all, and that is human intellect, knowledge, discovery, learning, art, creativity, is a State that's ahead of other States. And we

will come out of this national downturn more quickly than others, if we can cling to the things that matter and protect our priorities.

You know, the motto of this college is that, "You can get there from here." Your lifelong pursuit of "there" ends in a sense, but also begins in a sense today. This commitment — this word that signifies not an end, but a beginning, the pursuit of eternal and important things.

This day when we proclaim the powerful truth that for all of the diversity that we are blessed to share as a community in this county, in this State, in this country — there are important strong beliefs that unite us. A belief in the dignity of every individual. A belief in our own responsibility to advance the common good. And an understanding at the beginning and the end of our days that there is unity of spirit and to matter and that what we do in our own lifetimes does matter. In other words, that one person does make a difference and that each of us must try.

And as we look out over the horizon, dreaming of the things to come, know this — and know it deeply — there's a lot of people who need you. Your mothers and fathers need you, our business managers, our economists, our poets need you. Our tired, our sick, our less fortunate need you, computer scientists, our visionaries need you. Your grandparents need you, your children need you, future generations need you, and your children's children need you.

You see, we're all counting on you; we're counting on you to provide for our posterity. To not only do the work that honors our parents and grandparents, whether they're still with us or not, but work that makes the lives of our children's children better.

There was a professor named Professor Quigley, a renowned professor at Georgetown University, and he began each new semester with this important and timeless lesson that I wanted to share with you tonight. He said, "The thing that got you here today is belief in the future, belief that the future can be better than the present and that people will and should sacrifice in the present to get to that better future."

That idea, that powerful belief in tomorrow, that belief that it can be better than today if we work to make it so, is something we've always held as Marylanders, it's the thing that Professor Quigley called future preference. And as we seek to build this better world for those who will come after us, we need you.

I was not asked to speak today because of my accomplishments in law, I know. I was not asked to speak today because of the four smash hit CDs that we put out as a band. (Laughter.)

I think I was invited because I happen to be the public servant of all of you who call this State Maryland. And I ask that you indulge me in talking a little bit about how those values can guide the sort of politics that we aspire to as a people.

The values we share allow us, really, to summon our higher angels, especially on nights like this, to set aside the coarse temptation to be side-tracked by the things that pollute our public discourse, to put aside the politics of personal attack or partisanship. And instead, to summon forward from the earliest days of this country's founding, the politics of posterity. The politics of posterity that would make choices

that leave this world a better place. The politics of posterity that responds to that yearning that all of us have in our hearts to leave a better future for our kids. To change our circumstances, rather than to allow our circumstances to change us.

And that's what we are attempting to do as your servants on the state level. Because of a stronger future that all of us prefer, we are making record investments in community colleges. We have doubled State funding for Howard Community College in the first two years of this administration, compared to the first two years of our predecessors. That's from \$9 million to \$24 million.

Because of the stronger future that all of us prefer, we are increasing investments in community colleges by 39 percent statewide over that same time period.

Because of the better future that we prefer, we have fought to hold the line on any increases in college tuitions at our four-year colleges.

Because of the better future that we prefer, we are sustaining record investments in K through 12 education.

It is no accident that Forbes magazine would say that our state has the third best and most highly skilled workforce in the country. It's because we also have the third best public school system in the country and we want to be the best.

Because of the better future that we prefer, we have increased by 300 percent our funding of adult literacy programs in our State.

Because of the better future that we prefer, we are making serious strides in cleaning up the Bay.

We are extending health care to 100,000 Marylanders that last year were without health care because of the future that we prefer.

And today, your success, your individual success, in a very real way represents the culmination and the commencement of that better future. We're counting on your energy, we're counting on your passion to move our state forward, to make continued progress, to use what you have earned for the good of others — your state, your country and your world — I don't need to tell you — really, really need you.

A generation ago Robert Kennedy said that each of us can work to change a small portion of events and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation.

The parchment and the pen are now yours. Write that history. Write the history of a stronger America, write the history of an ever more healing America. Write the history of a more compassionate America. Write the history of a greener and cleaner America. Write the history of an ever more diverse, ever more welcoming, ever more open America and ever more globally engaged America.

And as you write that history, you will save the world. God bless you all and good luck.



0



0



Share

Tags: [community college](#), [howard county](#)



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce Dinner](#)  
[Chesapeake College Commencement Address](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Chesapeake College Commencement Address

May 21st, 2008

## Introduction

Dr. Bounds, thank you very, very much for your kind introduction, and also thank you for inviting me to be with all of you on this joyous, happy occasion.

It is great to be with you on this beautiful day on the Eastern Shore. I was glad to accept Dr. Bounds' invitation for a couple reasons. Number one, I think all of us owe him a debt of gratitude for 11 outstanding years. (Applause.)

Dr. Bounds, you've been our light and you've seen the potential that we have here in this beautiful part of our State and you've invested heart and soul into building up this college, so I really want to thank you. I love our community college presidents, they're an outstanding group of individuals and they make things happen. And as you know, community colleges are where America increasingly is going to college and people are investing, helping build skills, and also at the same time, holding down jobs and, in many instances, raising families and the like.

So, Dr. Bounds, thank you so much for your commitment.

My other reason, I have to confess to you, for wanting to accept this invitation is I love coming across that bridge. (Laughter.)

The stress kind of cascades off your back when you arrive on the Eastern Shore, this beautiful place. (Applause.)

My father and mother, but my father especially, used to enjoy the weekends when we would come down here, throw my brothers and me in the back of the station wagon. In fact, on the way here, I paused for a little bit. They're doing a little bit of work where the Wye Oak once stood, and I have a sapling from that Wye Oak at the house where my parents raised us in Rockville — it's the biggest tree on the block now.

I remember our times here fondly on the Eastern Shore, where Revolutionary men and women worked this land and raised their families with love and hope for the future, where the eagle and the osprey fly near to the face of God.

To the trustees who are here and the members of the faculty who are so rightly

## Releases

proud of this night, congratulations and thank you so much for your contribution.

And to the parents and to the grandparents, to the brothers and sisters, the sons and daughters who are here tonight, thank you for your love, your tears, your patience — standing beside and behind these graduates. I know that they're grateful to you as well, and we would not be here without your support of these fine people who are about to walk down the aisle.

I am hopefully only a few years away myself with a daughter who is 17 and one right behind her who is 16. I'm only a few years behind many of you and looking forward to that joyous moment when they walk down the aisle of a place like this — please, Lord, in State. (Laughter.)

See, I had some personal motivation for wanting to keep college education affordable in the State of Maryland. I'm very vested in that outcome.

I can remember when my wife finished up her last year of law school. We had a little baby at home and she was expecting our next and I am not sure how we did it, I'm not sure how she did it, but like so many of you, she hung in there and she got it done.

This is my favorite line of this evening. To the graduating class of 2008, congratulations, you did it! (Applause.)

And today we are here to celebrate you and to celebrate your accomplishments. We celebrate your collective accomplishments, we celebrate your collective pursuit of bigger and better things for yourselves and, more importantly, for the people around you. And of all the ways in which you will write the future history, really, of our State.

Those looking for inspiration who have used this to help write this history need only look to Chesapeake College Class of 2008. Because right here, ladies and gentlemen, in cap and gown are some really unique and beautiful and inspiring stories.

Stories of people like Casey Dale, who after earning a perfect 4.0 grade point average was selected for Who's Who Among American Junior College Students and nominated for the prestigious UMS Regent's Scholarship.

Stories of people like Anthony Mitchell, who in a few short moments will become the first member of his family to graduate from college.

### **Ann Marie's Story**

And stories of people like Ann Marie Hernandez. Now, Ann Marie and her husband José, who is a Corporal in the Cambridge City Police Department, have six kids. After dropping out of college long ago, Ann Marie never lost that yearning she felt in her heart to study nursing, to study at a career where she would be able to help and to heal others.

And after holding this dream close for years, Ann Marie received her acceptance to Chesapeake College, while expecting her fourth child. And then came one of life's unexpected turns, when Ann Marie received word of a family crisis and with another

child on the way, and the prospect of two more little ones that would come into the family, putting them in a growing, loving, but difficult position.

But Ann Marie and José knew what they had to do. And they were motivated by that deepest of all spiritual forces, that desire that occupies the human soul, that powerful love that people have for their family.

So Ann Marie and José made the only choice their hearts allowed them to do, with a now larger family and faced the possibility of letting their dream slip away. But they did not give up. And a few days ago she received an award for excellence in the Psychosocial Aspects of Nursing.

And in a few moments Ann Marie Hernandez will receive her Associates Degree from Chesapeake College.

Her story is only beginning. Soon she'll start her nursing career in the emergency department at Dorchester General Hospital in Cambridge, the same city where her husband protects the public safety. All of this effort, plus all of this hard work to pursue a dream of serving and healing others.

We are a strong State, and I submit to you the reason why is because of the spirit, because of the drive ... perhaps most importantly because of the essential kindness that is present in the hearts of so many of the people — the vast majority of the people, frankly, that I have the high honor to be able to serve.

## **Good News As We Look Toward the Future**

Today we honor your struggles, we honor your endurance, we honor your achievement. We celebrate passage, we celebrate transition, we celebrate high internal truths and we rejoice in fellowships and friendship and in prayer.

We pray in thanksgiving for the gifts that we've been given, we pray in anticipation of the joy of opportunities that lie ahead. And most of all, we pray that the Governor will be somewhat brief so that we can go home and go out. (Laughter.) I promise you, I will be brief.

I have some good economic news. How about that for a change? Let me give you some good economic news. (Applause.)

For all of you who are going out into the workforce with upgraded skillsets, it may give you some heart to know that for all the difficulties that our national economy is going through, they are heavy and they are great, (and all you have to do is try to fill up your gas tank to experience those difficulties) ... Maryland's job growth the last 12 months has actually outpaced the nation's job growth fourfold. So we've had four times the amount of job growth in our State. In the most recent period when the country lost 80,000 jobs, we added 3,600 jobs.

Exports from the Port of Baltimore, our major port, are up 32 percent. And the unemployment rate in Maryland is about 30 percent lower than what the nation's unemployment rate is.

So for all the downward news nationally, we are a strong State because we value the most important resource of all and that is the skills of our people — the human

intellect, the knowledge, the discovery, the learning, the art, the creativity of our people. And that's why we're going to come through this downturn more quickly and maybe even stronger than any of the other States.

## **We Need You**

And we also need you. You know, a commencement speaker would be nothing if he or she did not point out that this is not the end, but the beginning.

But today, we do proclaim powerful truths that for all the diversity that we are blessed to share, there really are strong beliefs that unite us. And they are the belief in the dignity of every individual. A belief in our own responsibility to advance the common good. And an understanding that at the beginning and the end of our days there is a unity to spirit and to matter. In other words, that what we do in our own lifetime does matter.

The dawn of your future really breaks in a new way today. And as you look across that horizon, there are lots of people in this world that need you. Your mothers and fathers need you, our business managers, our economists, our poets need you. Our tired, our sick, our less fortunate need you. Our computer scientists, our visionaries need you. Your grandparents need you. And most importantly of all, an under-represented group when it comes to the exercise of the franchise, future generations really need you.

## **Future Preference**

You see, we're all counting on you to provide for our share of posterity. To not only do the work that honors your parents and your grandparents, whether they're still with you now or not, but to also do something in life that will make your children's children's lives better.

There was a renowned historian by the name of Professor Quigley, who taught Georgetown University. And he began each semester with an important and timeless lesson I want to share with you.

He said, "*The thing that got you here today is belief in the future; belief that the future can be better than the present and that people will and should sacrifice in the present to go to that better future.*"

This idea, this powerful belief in tomorrow — that it can be better than today if work to make it so — is something that's always been at the center of our State. Future preference. That we seek to build this better world for those who will come after us.

And because we seek to do that, we need you.

I know that I was not asked to speak today because I was an outstanding student myself at the University of Maryland School of Law, the most affordable law school in the land. I was not asked to speak today because of the smash hit CDs my band put out before they retired.

I know that I was asked to speak to you today by Dr. Bounds because I am the Governor of your State.

And so indulge me briefly while I talk about something that I have a little bit of experience with, and that is the choices, the politics that I think all of us — regardless of party — aspire to as a people. The values we share allow us to really come together to summons our higher choice, especially on nights like this. And instead of turning to the politics of personal attack, of partisanship, to instead the politics of posterity. The politics of posterity — the politics that direct us to make choices that are going to make this world a better place. The politics which gives us the courage to change our circumstances, rather than allowing our circumstances to change us.

This tradition, which is ingrained so deeply in the human spirit, was at the very founding of our nation as well. In the earliest documents where those founding fathers who signed what, in essence, was a death warrant did so not only to protect the blessings of liberty for themselves, but for their posterity.

It was present when our country was able to hold together at the beginning, it was present in that World War II generation, who not only defeated oppression and fascism abroad, but then had the foresight to rebuild Europe so their children and grandchildren would grow up in a stronger country and in a safer world.

We are a revolutionary people and always have been. To those who refused to move to the back of the bus, to those who faced down fire hoses and clubs and bullets so that people would be judged by the content of their character ... the politics of posterity.

## **Our Shared Priorities**

And now it's your turn to build that stronger future that all of us prefer. Future preference has motivated everything that we have tried to do in this Administration as your servants at the State level.

Because of the stronger future that all of us prefer, we're making record investments in higher education, including our community colleges. In two years, we've increased funding for Chesapeake College by 38 percent. That's \$3 million more than what was invested in this great institution during the same period of our predecessors.

We're increasing investments in community colleges in similar numbers throughout the State. Because of the stronger future preference that all of us prefer, we fought to hold the line on any increases at our four year colleges.

Because of the stronger future that we prefer, we've increased our investments in adult literacy by 400 percent in just two years. In the five counties served by this college — Caroline, Dorchester, Queen Anne's and Talbot — this semester we increased from \$115,000 to more than half a million dollars to attack the challenge of adult literacy.

Because of the stronger future that we prefer, we're sustaining record investments as a people in K-12 education. Newsweek had an article this week that ranked our public school system as one of the top three in the entire United States of America. And it is no wonder then that we would have one of the top three most highly skilled workforces in America because of our future preference.

And that's why we're making strides to clean up the Bay. That's why we're tripling

our investment in cover crops. That's why we're investing in public safety. That's why we're investing to extend health care coverage to 100,000 more Marylanders. Because of the strong future preference that we possess for that One Maryland that we carry in our hearts.

## Conclusion

Now today your individual success in a very real way represents the culmination and commencement of that better future. We're counting on your energy, we're counting on your passion to move our State forward to make continued progress. It needs what you've learned for the good of others. And you know what? Your State, your country, your neighbors in this world really, really need you.

A generation ago Robert Kennedy said that "each of us can work to change a small portion of events. And in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation."

Well, that parchment and that pen are now yours. So write that history. Write the history of a stronger America, write the history of an ever more healing America, write the history of a more compassionate America, write the history of a greener, cleaner America, write the history of an ever more diverse, ever more welcoming, ever more open America, an ever more globally engaged America.

And as you write that history you will in your own individual ways change this world. And you'll change it for the better.

God bless you all and thank you. (Applause.)



Tags: [chesapeake college](#), [commencement](#), [eastern shore](#), [future preference](#), [graduation](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Howard Community College Remarks](#)  
[Baltimore Jewish Council Annual Meeting Keynote](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press](#)

# Baltimore Jewish Council Annual Meeting Keynote

May 22nd, 2008

Shalom ... Thank you for inviting me to join you at your annual meeting tonight. To all the elected officials who are with us tonight, thank you for your continued leadership for our One Maryland. It's really a pleasure to be among friends. I'd like to single out Clair Zamoiski Segal, the outgoing president of the council, for a very a successful term.

### Jon Laria Tribute

And of course, I want to congratulate my dear friend Jon Laria on his election. Jon and I are longtime friends – and I stress “longtime” because Jon's a superdelegate, so I think a lot of new friends are coming out of the woodwork these days.

Jon, as many of you know, served on my transition team and was an important part of our efforts on housing and community development. As it turned out, these efforts became more important than any of us realized at the time.

His work helped lay the groundwork for our State's efforts to address the national foreclosure crisis – today our State is leading the way nationwide, and in recent weeks, I signed what the Washington Post said were some of the most sweeping reforms in the nation.

At present, Jon chairs our Task Force on the Future for Growth and Development. This task force is studying a wide range of smart growth and land use issues effecting our State – helping us build a more sustainable future for our children and their grandchildren.

I also owe Jon a personal debt of gratitude for helping introduce me to the State of Israel. He traveled with me to Israel when I was Mayor, and along with a few others who are with us tonight, Jon will be traveling with me to Israel in just a few days. (I'll be talking a bit more about this trip and what it means to all of us in Maryland in just a few moments).

Jon has dedicated his life to tikkun olam, and in so doing, he's embodied the notion that every individual can make a difference, and all of us must try. Among the many ways Jon gives back to his community ...



## Releases

- He chairs the Public Policy Board at the University of Maryland
- He serves on Mayor Dixon's Blue Ribbon Committee on Taxes and Fees
- He's the immediate past-president of the Live Baltimore Home Center
- He's a former president of the Hopkins' Alumni Association in Baltimore ...

And as of today, he's the President of the Baltimore Jewish Council.

You know, back in 2002, the Baltimore Business Journal named Jon one of Baltimore's "40 Under 40" – identifying him at the time as an "emerging leader." I think it's fair to say that Jon has "emerged."

### Good Economic News

I wanted to offer a few words about some of our shared priorities, and then I'll open the floor for some Q&A.

What a tremendous year this has been. I can't tell you how pleased I was to read David Conn's quote in the Baltimore Jewish Times a few weeks back, when he called this past legislative session the most successful in the history of the Alliance. It's great to open the newspaper and read something nice – I could get used to this.

Continuing with this theme of "good news," as you prepare to plan for the year ahead, we have some encouraging economic signs that suggest our State is climbing out of the national economic downturn quicker than other states.

For all the difficulties our economy has experienced nationwide, Maryland's job growth over the past 12 months has been four times greater than the nation as a whole. And we've exported 32% more goods over the first quarter of this year.

And some more good news: the unemployment rate in Maryland is 26 percent lower than the national unemployment rate.

So for all the dour news nationally, we see very encouraging signs in our State.

### Shared Priorities

And again, we've had an encouraging session. Towards the end of last year, we met with members of the Maryland Jewish Alliance who identified some clear, shared priorities and goals for the upcoming session – healthcare, housing, protecting our environment, quality of life for our seniors, Iranian divestment.

And working together, we've made real progress for ...

- Senior housing on the Owings Mills Jewish Community Center campus
- Additional investments in Sinai Hospital
- \$75,000 for refugee resettlement, as we were all once "strangers in a strange land"
- A 50 percent increase in funding for the Maryland/Israel Development Center
- And, additional funding for the Jewish Museum of Maryland, the Gordon

## Center for Performing Arts and Baltimore Hebrew University

We've also made real and steady progress toward several of our other shared priorities.

- We're making historic investments in our children's education. In the previous Administration's first two years, they invested only \$23 million in school construction in Baltimore City and \$23 million in Baltimore County. In the first two years of the O'Malley-Brown Administration we're investing \$94 million in school construction for Baltimore City and \$93 million in Baltimore County.
- We've also held the line on college tuition for three years in a row – which, as the father of two teenage girls, I admit to having a personal stake in. During the previous administration, in-state tuition increased by 42%.
- We've closed the donut hole in the Medicare prescription drug program, helping our seniors, and expanded health care coverage to 100,000 additional Marylanders.
- We've made real progress for our environment, creating the Chesapeake 2010 Trust Fund to help restore the health of our Bay, fully-funding Program Open Space, and positioning ourselves at the forefront of national efforts to promote alternative energy and conservation.

And, we've helped restore fiscal sanity to our State government. You can't have a working government if you're not fiscally responsible – it's an undervalued American value, in my opinion.

There's a classic Groucho Marx routine in which he passes a restaurant bill over to his dinner companion and declares "this bill's an outrage ... and if I were you, I wouldn't pay it." Far too often in our recent history as a State and as a nation, we've been like Groucho Marx at the dinner table, but instead of passing the bill across the table, we've passed it on to the next generation.

But working together as One Maryland, we've been able to restore some fiscal sanity to our State government. We've come together and nearly closed the \$1.7 billion structural deficit we inherited, retained our Triple A Bond rating, and left a cash balance of nearly \$1 billion – all while protecting our priorities.

## Iran Divestiture and Israel

Last week, I signed what this Council has referred to as the strongest Iranian divestiture legislation anywhere in the country. So many of us grew up in the shadow of the Cold War. We don't want our children and grandchildren – or Israeli children – to grow up in the shadow of a nuclear Iran. Prime Minister Olmert told me personally about the importance of this legislation when I met with him at Government House this past fall.

I'll be meeting with the Prime Minister again in just a few days – this time in Israel – and I'll be giving him a proclamation honoring the State of Israel on its 60th birthday. During my first trip, we focused on homeland security. This trip will focus on healing – biomedical technology.

Israel, I am told, exports more life saving technologies on a per capita basis than any other country in the world – embodying the beautiful Talmudic principle that “the highest form of wisdom is kindness.”

As Israel develops these “weapons of mass salvation,” to borrow a phrase from Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, what a great model this is for our State, as we seek to grow our own creative economy.

There has always been a special bond between Maryland and Israel. From the early days of the Exodus, which set sail from our shores on a mission to save lives – to today, when we are working together on life saving technologies.

I also wanted to mention that I plan to make my second visit to Yad Vashem during this trip. The haunting memories from my first visit have had renewed meaning this month, with the recognition of Yom Hashoa.

## Conclusion

Given the significance of this month, when Israel celebrated her 60th, I wanted to close with some words from Theodore Herzl who said that *“dream and deed are not as different as many may think.”*

I think it’s a phrase that we need to remind ourselves of, especially at this point in our American history.

Because we’ve had the courage to reach for the most important dream of all – a better future for our children and their grandchildren – we’ve made significant progress for the people of our One Maryland.

With your help, your hearts, your leadership, passion and determination, we will continue to accomplish great things in the days, weeks, months, and years ahead.

Thank you for all that you do. Congratulations on a successful year, and best wishes for continued success. Shalom.



0



0



Tags: [annual](#), [baltimore](#), [council](#), [international](#), [jew](#), [jewish](#), [keynote](#), [meeting](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Chesapeake College Commencement Address](#)  
[Biosciences Industry Initiative Conference](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Tuition Freeze Announcement

June 4th, 2008

Thank you all for joining us. As the father of a 17-year old and a 16-year old, this is an issue near and dear to my heart. In fact, as I awake each morning, I say a prayer that my daughters will choose to go to college in-state.

Thank you President Hrabowski and congratulations on the tremendous work you are doing at UMBC. Chairman Kendall, thank you for your leadership. And, thank you Britt Kirwan ... your effort, your passion, your dedication is so important to what we've been trying to accomplish these past 15 months.

Our higher-ed community truly embodies the notion that, as Dr. King taught us, the essence of education is "intelligence plus character." What a blessing it is for our State to have so many individuals of high intelligence and high character working here in higher learning.

## Higher Ed & Our Workforce

A group of us from our Administration returned on Monday from a trade mission to Israel, where we met with Israeli CEOs and business leaders to discuss ways to strengthen the ties between Maryland's and Israel's bioscience industries.

During an event we had with the Israel America Chamber of Commerce, I had the opportunity to speak with Benjamin Netanyahu, the former Israeli Prime Minister ...

During our discussion, we talked about how bioscience and other sectors of the creative economy can be leveraged to expand opportunity to more people, rather than fewer.

You know, if we look at the resources we have in our One Maryland — at our science-related employment levels, our institutions of higher learning and discovery, our world class workforce, our federal facilities ... it's really true that there are very few places like Maryland in our country, or for that matter, anywhere in the world.

And, of all the assets that position our State for leadership in the new global economy, the most important is the talent, the ingenuity, and the creativity of our people.

- We have what Forbes magazine ranks as the 3rd most highly skilled workforce in the nation ...

## Releases

- It's not just a happy coincidence. We're also ranked by *Education Week* as having one of the top three public school systems in the country.
- In addition, we are home to the highest percentage of professional and technical workers nationwide.
- And, we have the highest percentage of doctoral scientists and engineers of any State in America

As we continue to grow our workforce, there is no better investment in Maryland's future prosperity than higher education:

- That's why, together we've created a P through 20 Council to align our K through 12 curricula with the needs of our institutions of higher learning.
- That's why, together, we're investing in our community colleges – and why we've increased funding by 41% (39% operational, 47 % capital) in our first two years, versus what our predecessors spent in theirs.
- That's why together, we're investing \$2.7 billion in our four year public colleges and universities, an increase of more than half a billion dollars (\$585 million) versus what the previous administration allocated in their first two years.
- That's why, working together, we created the Higher Education Investment Fund, establishing for the first time, a dedicated stream of funding for higher learning.

And, that's why we're working together to make a college education more accessible to Maryland families.

### Announcement

Because we've been willing to come together as One Maryland and protect our priorities, today we are able to announce that – for the third year in a row – there will be *no* increase in tuition at our State colleges and universities. Not a penny. Zero.

In these difficult economic times, the decisions we make on tuition can mean the difference between whether students and their families are able to afford a college education, or whether these dreams will fade out of reach.

This decision will open the doors of educational opportunity to more Marylanders, and it will help secure the strength of our workforce as we look toward tomorrow.

### How We Got Here

During that statewide conversation we hold every four years known as a campaign, Lt. Governor Brown and I offered the people of Maryland a 10-point plan for returning our State to progress. Point four was that “we will fight to make college education more affordable for all Marylanders, so we can expand opportunity and build a more just society.”

We all remember the challenges we were faced with at the time:

- In-state tuition had risen 40%, and efforts to provide relief to Maryland families were met with a veto pen.
- We were told that an \$800 increase in tuition at College Park was really no big deal at all, since our in-state tuitions – despite being among the highest in the land – were such a great value.
- We had earned an “F” rating in a national survey of college affordability, and we watched our tuitions rise to be the 6th highest in the nation.
- And while tuitions rose, we faced cuts in higher education funding ... leaving our State college and university campuses in dire need of repair.

So that’s where we started.

We’ve come a long way over these past fifteen months. Working together, we’ve made real and steady progress because we’ve had the courage to come together as One Maryland and protect our priorities.

As a result, today our tuitions have fallen from the 6th most expensive to the 16th, and the doors of educational opportunity are opening for more Marylanders.

## Conclusion

Our vision is to expand educational opportunity to Marylanders of every age, and from all walks of life – from those at the dawn of life, to those who seek to continue their learning later in life.

We’re making record investments, for example, in K-12 education. After a judge had to force our predecessors to invest in Maryland schools, we’re putting in an historic \$5.3 billion, including \$741 million for school construction.

And, together, we’re investing in adult literacy programs, increasing funding by nearly 400%.

We will continue to make progress in the days ahead, because we continue to come together as One Maryland to protect our shared priorities.

Thank you. Next I’d like to bring to the podium Clifford Kendall...



0



0



Tags: [college](#), [tuition](#), [tuition freeze](#), [university](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Biosciences Industry Initiative Conference](#)  
[Maryland National Guard Change of Command Ceremony](#) »



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Maryland National Guard Change of Command Ceremony

June 7th, 2008

Thank you all very, very much. Lt. Governor Brown, thank you for your leadership, for your partnership, and for your service to our nation.

To General and Mrs. Tuxill, General & Mrs. Adkins, to General Blum, and those of the Military Department who are with us today, thank you all very, very much for your service to our country, especially in these challenging times.

We are here this afternoon to participate in the time-honored tradition of the changing of command – a ceremony that marks the passage of responsibility and trust from one leader to another.

Since Revolutionary times, the Maryland National Guard has answered the call to defend our State, to defend our nation, to defend the freedoms that we cherish.

And since 1794 – just 18 years after we declared our independence as a nation – the State militia, now our National Guard, has looked to the Adjutant General for guidance, for strength, and for leadership.

These two great leaders have a combined eight decades of service, and their knowledge and their understanding of the National Guard and of the defense of our nation is a tremendous asset – not only for our State, but for our nation as a whole.

Major General Bruce Tuxill has served the Maryland National Guard with distinction since 1968. A fighter pilot, he cut his teeth on the F-86 Sabre jets, and rose quickly through the ranks.

During his service as Adjutant General, Major General Tuxill fostered an ethic of readiness, to meet the challenges of our State and our nation as we moved into the uncertainty of the 21st century and the challenges presented to our own homeland security by the nature of asymmetrical warfare.

Major General Tuxill, we are truly grateful for your service, and we wish you and Keren the very best of luck in your years ahead together.

Today, the flag was passed to Brigadier General Jim Adkins.

Brig. Gen. Adkins served in the Maryland National Guard for 22 years and met every



Releases

challenge with courage and resolve that will serve him well in this new position of leadership.

Last year, we were fortunate enough to have recruited General Adkins to be our Secretary of Veterans Affairs. His leadership on Maryland Veteran Affairs has already made a tremendous impact on America's returning servicemen and women.

Thanks to his partnership, thanks to his leadership, we've made some tremendous strides for our veterans, including those who are returning from combat. These heroes were here for us, and as Marylanders we are committed to being there for them.

Together, we Marylanders passed Maryland Veteran's Behavioral Health Bill.

Together, as One Maryland we created the National Guard Reintegration Program.

Together, as One Maryland we provided additional State funding for claims assistance.

Together, as Marylanders we are providing additional scholarship money for our returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

Together, as One Maryland, we're re-investing in Veteran-owned and disabled Veteran-owned small business procurement.

Together, as One Maryland, we're providing tax relief for returning veterans.

Together, as One Maryland we also created the Gold Star Family license plate to honor the sacrifice of those fellow citizens who have been killed in battle.

To the men and women in the Maryland Military Department, we are eternally grateful for your hard work and for your sacrifice. We are grateful to you for carrying on the proud legacy of this Old Line State, and the sacrifice, the service, commitment and courage of the Maryland 400.

Our nation is built upon heart and passion from people like yourselves. It is built on the love, the sweat, and the labor and commitment of brave men and women who, since the days of the Maryland 400, squared their shoulders against the forces of fear, of tyranny, so that we could continue to secure the blessings of liberty for this nation – not just for ourselves, but for our posterity.

In the words of a great American, "responsibility is the greatest right of citizenship, and service is the greatest of freedom's privileges."

At the end of one command and the beginning of another, we are seeing two citizen soldiers who took up freedom's greatest privilege, their own responsibility to the people of this nation, to serve for the strength of our State and our people, and our posterity, and I thank you gentleman very, very much.



0



0



Tags: [ceremony](#), [change of command](#), [national guard](#)



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Tuition Freeze Announcement](#)

[The Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation: "Best Friend of the Year" Award](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



## Categories

Select Category

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

## Archives

Select Month

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press](#)

# The Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation: "Best Friend of the Year" Award

June 11th, 2008

To Senator Dyson, thank you very very much... and to all of you who are here tonight. I was so very, very honored and I can't tell you how much I appreciate your invitation and your honor to be here with all of you. Because, for this reason, first and foremost, I believe that you are really the key to awakening a broader awareness among the entire body politic, all of your neighbors in the state of Maryland, as to the tremendous opportunity we have as Marylanders... really to reignite that awareness about what conservation is.

Especially now, I really want to thank you for what you do. The newsletters that you send out, all of the things that you do to make us all understand as Marylanders that our tomorrow can be better than our todays.

To President Miller it is an honor to be with you today, this evening, President Miller, I'm glad the rumors of your early retirement were greatly exaggerated.

It's terrific to be with you, and John Astle, and to Bill Miles, to Jeff Crane, to Delegate Weldon, who wasn't able to be here tonight, he was called away by other business, but he's here in spirit. Also, my dear friend Frank Kratovil from the Eastern Shore...Any Eastern Shore people here tonight?

And to everyone at the Caucus and the Foundation, thank you not only for this recognition, but thank you for what you do to make our One Maryland strong.

Sportsmen, as you well know, contribute more than a billion and a half dollars to our State's economy. Your help in managing our wildlife population... what you do to bring tourists to our state... you fund important conservation and habitat programs... you provide a strong, important voice for conservation.

But most importantly, I believe, that Maryland's outdoorsmen that are rightly referred to as the original conservationists.

Teddy Roosevelt said that "our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations," listen to this, "bids us restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations." The heritage of these unborn generations... that's really what brought us here tonight.

## Releases

It's that obligation, it's that sense of blessing that we feel when we're out alone in the woods, that God has given us something as individuals, that is precious, that is divine, and it is our individual gift, but we have to preserve it, in order to pass it on to future generations... the heritage of these unborn generations.

From our earliest days as a people, you know, we have always understood that as Marylanders. Look at our seal, the plowman and the fisherman together, it speaks to the fact that we understand we're all in this together. We understand, not only how much we rely upon nature, but how much we rely upon each other to preserve it, and pass it on to the future.

And it's because of that connection that we feel for those who have come before us, and for those who will come after us... it's because of the values that we share that we choose to summon our higher angels... and I really think throughout our history we've seen better days, we choose to practice the politics of posterity. I mean that's why farmers and hunters feeding the hungry, that's why you were founded. It wasn't for yourselves, it wasn't for the here and now, it wasn't even for your neighbors, although that is a noble cause as well, it's really about the future.

The politics of posterity, the politics that calls on each of us to set aside partisanship and personal differences and instead focus on those things that really unites us. And you know what, there is not another cause that unites us more profoundly than the cause of preserving the natural beauty that is this great State and this country. It is because of the more sustainable future that all of us prefer that we understand that we shouldn't squander open space dollars... that we should preserve habitat... that we should expand areas where we can actually go and hunt and enjoy the beauty of this state.

It's because of that more sustainable future that we prefer, that we would upgrade the Critical Areas Laws... that we would invest the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Fund that Senator Dyson mentioned. It's because of that more sustainable future that we created the Fisheries Management Task Force and the Oyster Advisory Committee... it's because of that more sustainable future that even when it's really difficult in the here and now, that we come together to find ways that we can bring back the Blue Crab population, so we're not the last generation to enjoy them.

And you know what, Teddy Roosevelt was right... he was right then and he is right now. There can be no greater issue than that of conservation in this country. We've come together and made progress because we all believe that, and we may disagree with each other from time to time. You know the path of human progress kind of zigs and zags doesn't it, but always moving forward.

Some of the happiest days of my childhood were spent with my Dad and my brothers walking alone in the woods of the Eastern Shore, walking along the banks of the Chopktank, in that beautiful part of our state where the eagle and osprey lie near the face of God. And those are some of the happiest moments I've spent with my own sons.

We have been given so very, very much, and it is under us all, we cannot allow ourselves ever to become part of the minority of the present. We are great revolutionary people, we've inherited much. And so long as I have the privilege and the blessing and the honor of serving all of you I'm going to work together with you,

so that we fulfill the highest responsibilities we have as citizens, as Marylanders as Americans. And that we pass it on to our kids in a better condition than we received it ourselves from our parents...God bless you all, Thank you.



0



0



Tags: [foundation](#), [legislative](#), [sportsman](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Maryland National Guard Change of Command Ceremony  
Acceptance of 2008 Leadership in Government Award](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Governor O'Malley Announces the Bio 2020 Initiative

June 16th, 2008

Steve, thank you. Secretary Edgerley, thank you very, very much for your kind introduction. Thank you also for your leadership in this incredible place about which all of us are so very, very proud.

It's a great honor to be here with you today. And joining me today is our Secretary of Economic Development, David Edgerley, who has a tremendous amount of knowledge, experience and background in biotech and Aris Melissaratos, his predecessor, I thank you, sir, for being with us today as well.

To Tom Watkins and all of those who have been working hard on the Life Sciences Advisory Board, which is still a work in motion, I thank all of them. A number of them are with us this afternoon — Renee Winsky, Francesca Cook, David Iannucci — and, David, thank you, Philippe Jacon, Col. George Korch from Fort Detrick, he's the gentleman wearing the Army uniform, and Dr. Nina Lamba — thank you for what you are doing to make our one Maryland a stronger place and for really pulling together the people that are on the ground, in the labs, doing this work day in and day out, to help us chart that vision forward.

I also want to thank Don Frye, from the Greater Baltimore Committee, who is with us. Christian Johansson, from the Economic Alliance, and also John Kellerman, who lobbied very effectively, John, for Maryland Families for Stem Cell Research. Thanks a lot for being here, John. He is seated next to Sandy Rosenberg, one of the leading proponents and advocates for Maryland's role in that.

There are several members of our Life Sciences Board, ladies and gentlemen, who are not here today — and, Dr. Reese, it's good to see you, sir. There are several members who are not able to be here today and that is because they are already in San Diego attending BIO 2008 International Conference in San Diego. And I'll be joining them in a few days to help market our State's bioscience community to CEOs and business leaders and investors, which is what a good Governor should do, right? When it's for your competitive advantage.

I had occasion to travel two weeks ago with a terrific delegation led by Abba Paulakoff and also Barry Bogach, with our Maryland Industrial Development Center. We now have approximately 35 or 36 — who's counting — Israeli-owned companies doing life science biotech work here in the State of Maryland.

## Releases

You may recall CoGenesys was purchased for \$400 million by Teva. And we met with leaders there, we met with investors there, we've also met with leaders and people from China, Ireland — which was the Celtic tiger of the last decade, just announced a big investment of \$400 million Euros in Third Level research. So Maryland's fame is really spreading throughout the globe, as well it should. And much of that fame has happened behind this great institution of Johns Hopkins.

It is always great to come to Johns Hopkins. The healing potential of the stem cell research, which I was just kindly given the 25 minute tour of, and, fortunately, will not be given a final semester exam on what I picked up in those 25 minutes.

But, Doctors, what you do, it's really heartening to see the important work that's going on here at the institute for civil engineering — the promise, the potential for ALS research, for juvenile diabetes, for spinal cord injuries, for nervous system disorders and the like.

There is a wonderful symmetry between the cutting edge research and discovery that goes on here in the cause of protecting and saving life and the promise we see in the 20 blocks just north of us, in the East Baltimore Development Initiative, which holds such potential for breathing also new life into our whole Metropolitan economy and certainly into this heart of our city.

In a very real sense, the potential that we see in your work here at Hopkins really is a worldwide beacon. It's a worldwide beacon for human progress. The notion that we can make our tomorrows better than our todays, because of all the knowledge, experience, know-how and healing that has gone on before us.

And your work here is also proof of what the life sciences can mean to the future of our entire State. Bioscience is, in many ways, the key to unlocking our future economic potential as a State and, at the same time, it allows us to offer moral leadership as we seek to extend human — yes, human compassion to our neighbors all around the globe.

I am told that in scientific circles, Maryland is often nicknamed the Ahome of the genome because of the groundbreaking research on the human genome, that geography of individualized biology which holds so much promise of more effective delivery of all kinds of therapies, and because of our expansive private sector bio-economy, which comprises nearly 400 companies and employs tens of thousands of Marylanders.

If you consider, my friends, my neighbors, and my fellow citizens, all the government and non-profit assets that we have in our one Maryland — our science-related employment levels, our institutions of higher learning and discovery, our world class work force, our federal facilities — we are uniquely positioned among States for even greater leadership, not just within these Continental United States, but within the whole world.

And as we stand here today on our own cutting edge of that history, destiny has afforded us a unique opportunity, I think, to become part of a new revolution in science — to assert our State as a hub of research and discovery in all of the amazing new break-throughs which come together under that umbrella concept of Apersonalized medicine®, this groundbreaking new science which holds within it the

potential to reshape the landscape of 21st century medicine.

There is a Jewish proverb, a saying from the Talmud, which says that if you save just one life it is as if you have saved the world. And personalized medicine, in its essence, really is about healing the world one life at a time.

It is rooted in the belief that there is dignity in every single individual and that within every person there is a personalized road map for healing, a roadmap embedded in our genotype or genetic identity, a road map, which may very well expand the limits not only of healing, but also of the human imagination and human capacity, allowing medicine to reach heights that just a generation ago, many would have thought was science fiction, pie in the sky, and something that we would never see happening.

One of the most important, but unfortunate, roles that ones takes on as a public servant, whether it's in the office of mayor or the office of governor, is that I have the sad occasion to attend a number of funerals, not just in the line of duty funerals, which gain rightfully so much of our public attention. But also the funerals of people maybe lesser known, but whose lives were important and contributed to our sense of community or reality of community.

And how many times I heard over and over again, and hear from a grieving spouse or daughter or son or friend, you know, if we had only known earlier. If we had only known earlier.

Well, imagine being able to go to a doctor, have him or her read your genetic map to identify the conditions for which you are most susceptible and determine what can be done today to prevent these problems from arising tomorrow.

Imagine going to the doctor and knowing that he or she will be able to determine with precision how your own body will react to specific medications so that they can avoid prescribing treatments with harmful or painful or unnecessary side effects.

That day is not far off. That when genetic mapping will tell doctors which drugs and therapies and preventions to prescribe or which doses at which times.

And if in Maryland we are willing to invest in that future and we are willing to invest in the here and now for our bioscience economy and discovery, then together we can become a leader in this new scientific frontier.

Which brings me to why we're all here today. We seek to take a giant step forward in harnessing all of the potential that is already within our grasp. So today we are announcing what we are calling our ABio 2020 Initiative. It is a \$1.1 billion dollar investment in Maryland's bioscience industry that will represent, to our knowledge, the largest per capita investment in the biosciences made by any State in the country. (Applause.)

Now together, these investments will leverage a projected \$6.3 billion for our State in private and federal investments, resulting in \$7.4 billion in total investments in our bioscience industry by 2020. And they will produce thousands and thousands of new jobs. And they may also produce something even more lasting and more important, which are the cures that can alleviate suffering, early death — those things which cripple economies in developing nations.

The initiative has nine major components. Everybody ready to count them off? Sharpen your pencils, here we go.

Number one. Borrowing from our neighbors in North Carolina, where they have done this very well, we are going to create the Maryland Biotechnology Center, a one stop shop to promote and support biotechnology innovation and entrepreneurship in Maryland, and consolidate the various State, academic and private sector ventures.

We are going to bring together TEDCO's tech transfer initiatives, DLLR's industry regulatory functions and various initiatives from the University of Maryland. And we'll use the Center, also, to house a statewide science and technology marketing group. Something we don't do very well in Maryland is promote the greatness that we have. Industry experts housed at the Center will expand our States relationships with federal labs, universities, private sector companies and also private sector investors.

Number two. We are going to double our Biotech Investment Tax Credit in the next year and we are going to double it again in the five years ahead of that, leading to an increase of 400 percent, or \$24 million in the next five years.

By our projections what does that mean? Increasing the tax credit will allow our State to leverage \$50 million each year in private investment for Maryland biotechnology companies.

Number three. We will grow our technology incubator network and increase incubator space by 50%. By investing \$60 million over the next ten years, we can leverage together \$120 million in private and federal investment funds. And we will be able to create anywhere from 5,000 to 10,000 new jobs. This follows, by the way, a recent TEDCO study which found a strong demand for additional space. I'll be darned, some of those Government programs actually work.

Number four. We will invest \$300 million in — that can't be right. (Laughter.)

We will be investing — fact check here — we will be investing millions of dollars in capital projects for life science facilities, including the Science and Technology Park and the East Baltimore Development Initiative, which I just mentioned, just north of us. And Jack Shannon is here from EBDI.

In addition, we will be making new investments in the University of Maryland Baltimore Health Sciences Facility III, which is near and dear to Dan Reese's heart. UMB Howard Hall, UMBI Center for Agricultural & Environmental Biotechnology, the Montgomery College Bioscience Center, and the TEDCO/Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund.

Most of those things are already in our capital budget. Others will have to be put into our capital budget. All of them create that cutting edge of this new economy and it is essential that we undertake them.

Number five. We will expand our efforts to assist with intellectual property valuation and protection services. Many start-ups cannot afford professional legal services for intellectual property protection. This would be an expansion of a successful program at the University of Maryland School of Law, one of the best and greatest law schools in all the land, that works with entrepreneurs to help them validate and



protect their intellectual property in order to commercialize them. Dean Karen Rothenberg is here from the University with us today. The Dean cut short her vacation just to be with us and I thank you for that, Dean.

Number six. We are going to continue to invest at least \$20 million a year in stem cell research, moving forward so we can keep going what's already started here. (Applause.)

Little known fact, for — you know, while there are other States that are bigger than us, Maryland actually has now one of the top three largest stem cell funds in the entire United States of America. And unlike the funds in some other States, our funds are actually hitting the labs and doing the work and doing the research that is propelling us forward like I just saw upstairs.

Number seven. We will enhance our State's investment in nanotechnology. Our one Maryland is already one of the nation's leading research centers for nanotechnology and nano/biotechnology. By offering more grants and faculty attraction resources, we can leverage the vast opportunities that exist in this field, which is expected to permeate all technology industries in the years ahead.

Number eight. We will increase technology transfer by strengthening the Maryland Technology Transfer Fund. By helping universities and federal labs to get their innovations to market, we would be able to significantly increase the number of start-up companies coming out of our universities and research institutions, leveraging \$3.7 billion in private and federal investment.

Number nine. We are going to augment the Maryland Venture Fund, which provides challenge grants to start-up companies and makes equity investments in more established companies, something that the MIBC has had some experience with, by increasing aggregate public investment to \$152 million by 2019, we can leverage nearly \$2 billion in private equity to help these companies succeed.

Now, through the Venture Fund, we've made approximately 50 investments in bioscience companies and they have leveraged 15 times the value of our investments through our network of venture capital partners.

As an example of the potential for these investments, our Department of Business and Economic Development, led by David Edgerley, is partnering with JBG/Scheer Partners to leverage \$1 million in State investment to create a \$100 million pool for building life science facilities in Greater Washington. And I'm told Henry Bernstein is here representing Scheer Partners. And, Henry, we thank you for being here.

So, anyway, those are the nine steps that we're taking and wanted to announce now, on the cusp of Bio in San Diego, where so many people are working to promote the good work, the healing, the research that all of you are doing every day.

This work is not done. There will no doubt be other recommendations coming out of the Life Sciences Advisory Board. To refine these initiatives, maybe to suggest to others, and to build upon the significant progress we've made for our bioscience industry in the past 16 months and, really, in a larger sense, that we've made for decades and decades. Because of Marylanders who believe that we can, in fact, make our tomorrows better than our today's.

With the help of so many of you who are with us today, we have been able to accomplish really important things in life sciences in Maryland in a very short period of time. Working together we created the Life Sciences Advisory Board to draw upon our State's best and brightest in order to secure Maryland's global leadership in the life sciences. And from their hard work and dedication, frankly, which is ongoing, many of these initiatives have come.

Working together, we fought to continue our State's Biotechnology Investment Tax Credit, which in only two years, as I said, has leveraged \$24 million for growing Maryland biotech companies. It's a credit that is working. Take for example, BioMaker Strategies — it's a cancer diagnostics company in Baltimore which raised more than \$600,000 as a direct result of investments from this incentive program. BioMaker is now one of the first commercial tenants in the biopark.

Working together, we nearly doubled the State funding for nanotechnology, stem cell research in it's two years has been 20 — I'm sorry \$43 million and we are not done yet. In the past two years of the fund, Hopkins has received 60 grants, totaling \$26 million.

Working together with our city and federal partners, we've made investments approaching \$100 million in those 20 blocks north of us, those 80 acres near and dear to my heart, and I know that Dr. Brody isn't here, but please pass on to him, he's been a terrific president and the courage, the guts, the imagination that he demonstrated in joining forces with the City, with State backing also, is really something that is going to have a lasting and positive effect for many years.

We've made similar investments, by the way, in the UMB Biopark, UMBC's research park, and many other hubs of innovation throughout our State.

Working together we've created the AP to 20 Council@, so that education from pre-kindergarten all the way through college, community college, and afterwards, is of relevance and in alignment, so that we can fill the jobs that our bioscience economy demands.

And, in addition, we've invested \$2.7 billion in our four year public colleges and universities, which is an increase of \$585 million versus what was done in the comparable two years of the prior administration. And we've made together, as all of these things have done, a record \$5.3 billion investment in K-12 education.

Now, folks, those things are not flash in the pan investments. Quite to the contrary. They are a continuation of the actions taken through many, many generations of work in this incredibly strong, incredibly diverse, incredibly forward looking State that all of us are proud to call our home — Maryland, one of the strongest States in the union.

And we seek to build upon those accomplishments and implement this Bio 2020 vision. We possess a strong collection of assets in our State which gives us a competitive advantage, the likes of which no other State has. When you consider that no other State has this concentration of skills, of talents, of great institutions, it is fair to say — and this is not hyperbole — that when it comes to bioscience economy, there are very few, if any, places like Maryland on the face of the planet.

Think about it. We have one of the top three bioscience clusters in the country,

second in per capita terms, with 30,000 skilled workers contributing to our State's economy. We have the highest percentage of doctoral scientists and engineers in the country, the highest percentage of professional and technical workers, more doctoral scientists in the biosciences in our one Maryland than in any other state, and three of the top six biomedical scientists in the world conduct their research right here in Baltimore, the greatest city in America. (Applause.)

And there is more. There's more. Forbes Magazine says that Maryland has one of the top three most highly skilled workforces in the United States. And why is that? Because Education Week Magazine says we also have one of the top three public school systems of any State in the United States.

We have some of the world's leading federal academic institutions of science and discovery, nearly \$15 billion in federal research and development monies flowing into these institutions — a large percentage of which are directed to life sciences.

Our State currently has 19 technology incubators which would be the envy of many countries, let alone all that in one State.

And last but not least, we house all the major federal research and regulatory agencies that are so critically important for the development of new drugs and new therapies, including the National Institute of Health, National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Food & Drug Administration, the USDA Agricultural Research Services, the National Integrated Biodefense Campus at Fort Detrick,. And, folks, that's just the short list.

We are growing. Even in the face of a really tough economy, Maryland is growing. And Maryland is in a stronger position than most. In the past year, our rate of job growth is four times that of the national job growth. Our unemployment rate is 26 percent below what the national unemployment rate is. In the first quarter of this year, exports from the Port of Baltimore were up 32 percent compared to the same quarter last year. These are tough times, but it's hard for anyone looking at those facts to disagree that we are in a stronger position than most and we should not squander it.

I leave you with some words that Robert Kennedy once said which is that, "The future is not a gift, it is an achievement@ and that the essential challenge of the present@ is to bring about that brighter future.

My friends, we can, through the decisions we make in the here and now, the investments we make today, usher in a new era of technological advance and scientific achievement — all while strengthening our State's economic future and expanding opportunity.

And so it is within our grasp to secure our place not only as the home of the human genome, but as the preeminent leader in the advancement of the science of personalized medicine, the dignity of the individual.

At the end of the day our greatness as a State and as a people, I think, will be determined by how we meet the essential challenge of the present, how we invest in each other, how we invest in our potential, how we invest in our skills, how we invest in our capabilities for healing this fragile and ever smaller world of ours.

For our greatness as a people really isn't about how many smart bombs we can drop on our enemies halfway around the world, it's rather as Dr. Jeffrey Sachs would say, about how many smart, compassionate, healing hands, how many life-saving sciences and cures we can extend to the most fragile of our neighbors all around the globe. How we can unleash, as Dr. Sachs says, the Aweapons of mass salvation.@ That's an aspiration that's truly worthy of a great people and that's who we are. And that's who we're going to continue to be with your open hearts, with your open minds and with your hard work towards that brighter tomorrow.

Thank you all very, very much. (Applause.)



Tags: [bio](#), [bio 2020](#), [bio science](#), [bio tech](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Acceptance of 2008 Leadership in Government Award](#)  
[Chestertown Capital for a Day Meet and Greet](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Chestertown Capital for a Day Meet and Greet

June 17th, 2008

Thank you all. Mayor Bailey, thank you for showing me around your town all day, and also thank you for your awareness of what your State government is doing, and the impact that has on our quality of life throughout our State.

I also want to thank Jay Falstad from the Queen Anne's Conservation Association for organizing today's event. Jay, thank you very much.

I appreciate all that you do to keep the Eastern Shore the Eastern Shore. Last month, we had occasion with the cabinet to travel to Hagerstown and we declared Hagerstown Capital for a Day. Today, we declare Chestertown Capital for a Day. I think it speaks very clearly about the strengths of our One Maryland... everything that we've seen today as a cabinet.

Here at the White Swan Tavern, where I'm told General George Washington once stayed, Lt. Gov Brown and I wrapped up our first official day of campaigning as a ticket. We announced in the morning and then we were here that evening.

We have a sacred responsibility, I believe, to safeguard the beauty that we have, the history that we have... the touch of the divine that we have here on the Eastern Shore – one of the most beautiful places not only anywhere in our State but anywhere in our country, possibly anyplace in the world.

And working together you have been able to maintain it against some really big pressures.

We just came from a terrific lunch at Bethel AME Church. The retiring pastor, Reverend Jones, took me upstairs and showed me the furniture on the pulpit, which dates back to 1874. That's the sort of history that's a part of this place, and it is no wonder that Progressive Farmer Magazine named Kent County The Best Place To Live in Rural America.

Mayor Bailey went through some of the things we've been doing together on the environment. It is amazing isn't it? The consciousness that has grown in a relatively short period of time about the imperative that we have, the responsibility and the opportunity that we have to find solutions to the sort of climate change that can have such a devastating effect on life on this planet.

## Releases

We're doing some good things together. The Washington Post said that our Administration has ushered in an eco-friendly era, and that disparate factions are actually working together. One of the great gifts to the rest of the country is that Maryland-way of coming together across party lines – coming together in a State that's America-in-miniature across many different regions, and finding our way through our diversity to agree to move forward.

That's really what the seal – the ploughman and the fisherman together – is about. Not only finding that harmony with nature, it's about finding that harmony with one another. And it is that harmony – that consensus, to use a word from the arena of politics – that allowed us to pass the Clean Cars legislation. It's that consensus that allowed us to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. It's that consensus that created the Climate Change Commission. We came this close to actually passing a bill, and in the meantime, in the effort we were leaders nonetheless.

Secondly, we have the strands of an energy policy coming together in our State, led by that thing which is most immediately within our grasp, and that is conservation. Reducing the amount of electricity that we use by 15% by 2015 is the leading step to take control of our own energy future.

We also created new green standards, as the Mayor mentioned, for all State buildings and schools. It's Kent County, frankly, that's leading the way, renovating residence halls at Washington College to harness the power of geothermal technology.

Fourth, we resurrected the Office of Smart Growth, and we're going to be moving it shortly much closer to the Governor's office so that we can drive the coordination and things that we need to do in order to live in a more sustainable way on this land that hugs such a fragile estuary.

Also, we had a hearing only about a year ago where we rejected that Four Seasons Project on Kent Island at the Board of Public Works. We also reformed and upgraded our critical areas legislation, really, for the first time in 30 years since Governor Hughes first enacted it.

We also passed the Stormwater Management Act. We are making strides to clean up our tributaries and rivers through our Waterway Improvement Fund, funding three grants for Kent County totaling \$199,000.

We've done a number of things like the Oyster Restoration Act, as well as the creation of the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund – which ramped up in a tough economic year to \$25 million. The following year we hope it will go up to \$50 million. We've nearly tripled our funding for cover crops in our State in a relatively short period of time. (Applause).

We promised we would use Open Space dollars for the open space and that's what we've done. It's an old concept, it's a simple concept, but it's one that we adhere to. We've included \$1.3 million for community park and trail improvements in Kent County.

We're also protecting our pristine forests and farmlands – in fact we've signed a forest agreement with Virginia and Pennsylvania to move forward into the future.

I want to thank the Maryland Environmental Trust and the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy for the good things they've done. Thanks to their partnership, we also fully funded the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation.

Now that's not an exhaustive list. And there's certainly many more things that we need to do. And together we're going to do them.

There's a beautiful Native American proverb which Secretary Griffin turned me on to which goes like this: "*How we treat one another is reflected in how we treat the Earth.*"

How we treat one another is reflected in how we treat the Earth.

It just might be in that sort of seasonal awareness, the circles that all primal people keep, it could just be that how we treat the Earth just might well usher in a new era as to how we treat one another too. I really feel myself lucky and blessed to serve the people of such a great State. Especially at these times when people throughout the country are looking inward, wondering if we have what it takes to be a great people. We do, and you're showing the rest of the country how, and I really thank you for all your good work.

Thanks a lot.



Tags: [cabinet](#), [capital for a day](#), [chestertown](#), [eastern shore](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Governor O'Malley Announces the Bio 2020 Initiative](#)  
[Maryland Municipal League Keynote Address](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Maryland Municipal League Keynote Address

June 24th, 2008

## Introduction

It's a great joy and privilege to be with all of you – the importance of the jobs that you do to our neighbors and to our State can not be overstated.

I'm joined here by a number of members of the O'Malley/Brown Administration. First and foremost among whom is our Lt. Governor, Anthony Brown (Applause). And could the various members of the O'Malley/Brown Administration please stand and let me acknowledge your good work – any Secretaries who are with us tonight (Applause). Thank you all very much.

The Governor of Pennsylvania Ed Rendell gave me two bits of great advice. It's advice that I've recalled and remembered time and time again. One of them was to make every decision as if you're not running for reelection. And the other was to make sure that you surround yourself with the best people you can possibly find.

So I hope you're finding the men and women who lead the O'Malley/Brown Administration to be people who do return your calls and try to help you solve problems and support you in the important work that you're doing in your community.

During the years that I was Mayor of Baltimore, I was fond of a story that I once heard about former President Lyndon Baines Johnson. When the protesters were outside his windows and things were going very poorly with the war and it seemed like the whole world was crashing in around him, I'm told that President Johnson turned to a close aide and he said, you know, whenever I feel overwhelmed by this job I just thank the Lord that at least I'm not a big city mayor (Laughter).

You're always on when you're mayor and people know whether what you're doing is working or whether it's not working. Communication is not as important as action when you're mayor. And I have a tremendous amount of respect for the job that you do. It's not easy — especially in these difficult times when the foreclosure crisis and the economic downturn, the value of the dollar, the pain at the pump, the pain at the grocery line are hitting all of us and they're hitting your neighbors and all of you are feeling it acutely.

I saw on CNN yesterday a story about how States and cities all across the country



## Releases

are facing some of their biggest budget challenges that they've ever faced in 20 or 30 years. They talked about those sorts of cascading down cuts that may result in 45,000 people across the country that are public sector employees being laid off by municipalities, counties and States.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is reporting that economic growth in our cities is about half of what it has been in recent years. And State government in other parts of the country are now facing that sort of tidal wave of red ink that all of us were forced to confront in our State more recently.

I want to thank everybody with MML for backing up our Delegates and our Senators. You honored a couple of them tonight. Speaker of the House Mike Busch and Delegate Maggie McIntosh were two really, really courageous people in that General Assembly. And there were a lot of others, too, who bit the bullet at the State level so that we wouldn't just stand aside and let the budget deficit roll down and make your jobs harder.

There's a routine by Groucho Marx — he's in a very exclusive restaurant, white table cloth, with a guest, and the waiter puts the check in front of him, and Groucho Marx looks at the check and he passes it to his guest and he says, "This check is an outrage, I wouldn't pay it if I were you" (Laughter).

Well, in a way, that's what we've been doing for the last seven years in our country and for the four prior years in our State — although the person we were passing the check to wasn't a guest at our table, it was the next generation and people in future years.

I made a couple of declarations the last time we were together, just a year ago, as we were facing this challenge that was coming up.

And I said, first, that we were going to increase — not decrease, not rob, not divert — but increase the dollars that we put into the transportation trust fund so that we can do a better job of delivering on the forgotten promise of smart growth. That is, investments in infrastructure, in roads, in mass transit, in main streets and all of those things that are so very important to all of you.

And the second goal, promise, declaration that I made to all of you that morning one year ago was that we would not just let this cascade and roll down on you. That we would bite the bullet, we would face that \$1.7 billion at the State level. That is, for the most part, what we have been able to do, and I thank you for helping us do it.

Because we understand how important your work is, we are doing all that we can at the State level to support you and to support your important work.

Since Lieutenant Governor Brown and I had the honor to be able to take office and serve the great people of our State, if one is to include the big increase in investments that are public education through Thornton ramp-up and also through school construction, we have, in just 16 months, been able to increase by \$4 billion the amount of money that comes from the State governments to county and other local governments.

\$4 billion more — that's about a 47 percent increase over our predecessor. And we are working very hard, believing as Dr. King taught us, that we are all caught "in an

inescapable network of mutuality,” that we’re “tied in a single web of destiny.” And that destiny is going to be a brighter one and a better one for our kids, if we continue to hold onto that forgotten American value of fiscal responsibility.

Let me give you some good news. The rate of job creation in the State of Maryland over the last year has been four times what the rate of job creation has been in the nation as a whole.

You want to hear some more good news? Let me give you some more good news. Exports at the Port of Baltimore are up 32 percent over what they were at the same time a year ago.

## **People, Partnerships, and the Politics of Posterity**

Our unemployment rate — while it is up, as it is in every State in the nation — is still about 30 percent less than it is as a nation overall. And that’s good news.

My friends, we are going to climb out of this national downturn more quickly than other States and it’s because we have the courage and the strength to invest in our priorities, to invest in our future, to invest in our children’s future and to practice the politics of posterity.

The politics of posterity. None of us came to Ocean City for the weather today. We came here because we believe that what we do is important and we can learn from one another, because of the values that we share.

A great thing about being a mayor is that there’s no Democratic or Republican way to pick up the trash, is there? Or to keep your streets safe. There’s no Democratic or Republican way to make sure your main streets have decent lighting — they either do or they don’t. And there’s nothing partisan about it. It’s about effective government. It’s about the politics of posterity — the politics that says we want to do this not just for ourselves, but for the future of our towns, our cities, and our families. And each of us has a responsibility to make it so.

This tradition, which is so deeply ingrained in the human spirit, has been a part of the character of our State since its founding. The politics of posterity.

## **The Safer Future All of Us Prefer**

I wanted to talk to you a little bit about the greatest obligation that we have, any of us that hold a public office, and that is our obligation to make our neighborhoods safer places. Not to put up the surrender flag to gangs, or to drug violence, or to those who would have us live in fear, but to make our State safer.

Our biggest goals in this administration are to strengthen and grow the ranks of our middle class, to improve public safety and public education, and thereby to expand opportunity.

I wanted, as I conclude, to just focus a little bit on public safety. We have the ability, through the decisions and the choices we make, to actually fight back and make our State a much better and safer place.

Robert Kennedy once said very eloquently that “no nation hiding behind locked

doors is free, for it is imprisoned by its own fear. No nation whose citizens fear to walk their own streets is healthy, for in isolation lies the poisoning of public participation.”

When we took office, we had a backlog of some 24,000 DNA samples that should have been taken from people that were convicted of violent crimes, and for years were never taken from them. Because we believe that we can make a difference in making our streets safer, we put on a tremendous effort, thanks to our State Police, led by Col. Terry Sheriden and also Secretary Gary Maynard and our Department of Corrections, and we knocked out that backlog of 24,000 DNA samples.

Legislation was passed this year to allow us to take samples from those that are arrested, as well, not waiting until conviction.

In 2007, because we knocked out that backlog, there were 287 matches of DNA evidence to solve crimes in Maryland, many of them on cold cases or rapes, murders (Applause). Many of them on cold cases of rapes or murders or other things that otherwise wouldn't have been solved. That otherwise these predators would still be on the street. Who can put a price tag on that? Who can put a value on that? Sparing somebody that horrible tragedy in their family.

It was because of partnerships, though, that we were able to do this — something that all of you understand in your own towns and cities, the State, local, and Federal officials actually working in concert. At the State level we take the samples and we analyze them. At the Federal level they match them against the FBI's database, then when the hits come back we forward them on to local police departments or municipal police departments and, thereby, make our State a safer place by overcoming the barriers that have traditionally separated local, State and Federal.

Because of the important work that you do, and because of its centrality to making our State a safer place, we have also been able to award 688 GOCCP — that's the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention — grants in the last year totaling nearly \$49 million.

Despite difficult times, a downturn in the economy doesn't give any of us a pass on improving public safety.

We've contracted with a great organization I wanted to share with you and I hope you'll take it home and talk to your chiefs about how to implement it. It is a group called Crime Reports.com — a commercial enterprise which allows local law enforcement agencies to upload crime data and share information not only with themselves, but with citizens, so that they can become engaged in this battle for a safer Maryland.

Our Administration has provided also \$18 million more in public safety aid to local authorities versus the prior administration. That's an increase of 11 percent. And why?

Because we prefer a safer future. And that's why we have been able to create partnerships to prevent gun violence and other violent crime on a regional basis.

Because of that safer future that we prefer, we have launched an initiative to do a much better job of gathering gang intelligence as it comes in and out of our prisons

and relay that back to local police departments.

Because of the safer future that we prefer, we have created a Violence Prevention Unit at our Department of Parole and Probation to hone in on that tiny kernel of about 1,200 repeat violent offender predators that the second they slip up, they should give up their privilege to be back on the streets. And we should not wait until a murderer or a rapist murders or rapes again before we protect the public from people that we know are ticking time bombs out there.

Because of the safer future that we prefer, we've also launched the Capital City Safe Streets Initiative with the City of Annapolis and local community organizations, inspired also by and encouraged by Speaker Busch.

Because of the safe future that we all prefer, we boosted drug treatment by \$10 million. We have also eliminated parole for child sex offenders with Jessica's Law and invested \$2 million in doing a better job of monitoring child sex predators.

Because of the safer future that all of us prefer, we're partnering with Hopkins and Washington College and local law enforcement agencies to provide ComStat On Demand. What is that? That is the computer pin mapping that by now virtually every smart department should have, law enforcement agency should have, so that you can recognize the trends before it hits the newspapers and get on it early.

I plead with you, help us to do this. If your chief does not yet have the ability to tell you on a weekly, timely basis at least where the crime is happening and how they're deploying to prevent it, then please call Kristen Mahoney at our Office of Crime Control and Prevention. When we say ComStat On Demand, we'll provide the ComStat, the training and the technical support, but you've got to demand it. And we want to help you do it.

Those are some of the things that we've been able to do together.

## Conclusion

My friends, the great historian Arnold Toynbee once wrote that "true growth is the ability of a society to transfer increasing amounts of energy and attention from the material side of life to the nonmaterial side and, thereby, to advance its culture, its capacity for compassion, its sense of community, and the strength of its democracy."

I think that's what each and every one of you does every day. And I thank you for making us a stronger Maryland and a better Maryland. And I look forward, along with Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown and everyone in this administration, to doing everything in our power to back you up, as you have backed us up in making the tough decisions up front for that better future that all of us prefer.

Thank you all very, very much (Applause).



Tags: [cabinet](#), [keynote](#), [maryland municipal league](#), [mml](#), [ocean city](#), [politics of posterity](#), [worchester county](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Chestertown Capital for a Day Meet and Greet  
DNA and Bearcat Announcement](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# DNA and Bearcat Announcement

July 8th, 2008

I want to thank Colonel Sheridan for the terrific job that he's been doing leading our Maryland State Police. There's no more important responsibility of our State, local or municipal governments than that of public safety. And it seems fitting that we mark progress towards our public safety goals here in Howard County, the "Heart of Maryland".

Our ability as a people to continue to make progress is, I believe, dependent on a couple of things. First, on the skills, the talents, the education of our people, but also on our ability to be able to improve public safety in every single part of our State.

Because public safety is a top priority for our Administration, we have increased funding for the Maryland State Police by approximately 12%, or \$67 million dollars compared to the same period under the former administration.

That brings me to the first part of our announcement today, which is about DNA – the modern fingerprint. DNA increasingly is a tool that law enforcement across the country is using in order to take repeat violent offenders off the streets. Before they can injure, murder, or rape another citizen again.

### Announcement of 1,000th DNA hit

When our Administration first took office nearly 17 months ago, we inherited a backlog of 24,000 unanalyzed DNA samples. That's 24,000 opportunities to solve crimes that we just had failed to analyze, that we had failed to put through the scientific rigor that would enable it to be matched within the larger database.

These samples are absolutely critical to our crime prevention efforts, our ability to resolve open investigations, our ability to sometimes solve cases that had gone dormant and gone cold years and years ago – while the perpetrator continued to elude capture, and elude justice, while victims had no closure whatsoever, while the public remained vulnerable.

In our One Maryland, we decided that was unacceptable and came together under the leadership of Colonel Sheridan, joined by other State officials like Secretary Maynard, and we have been able to knock out that backlog of some 24,000 DNA samples that have not been taken from offenders who actually qualified under the statute to have submitted them.

## Releases

So thanks in large part to the progress that we've made, today we are able to announce that scientists at the Maryland State Police Forensic Science Laboratory have generated our State's 1,000th DNA sample – 1,000 times that we have been able to match DNA with other evidence or other perpetrators in our database.

Now, of course, a hit does not necessarily mean that the case has been cleared and that the perpetrator has been arrested. But it is number 1000 that we have been able to match in order to move forward a case that is currently under investigation.

Of the 1000 times that we have been able to obtain hits, 500 of them occurred between 1994 and 2006. The remaining 500 have occurred over the last 2 years. So that gives you an indication of the progress we're making, the real leads that we're developing, the real opportunities that the hard working men and women in the State Police, in cooperation with Parole and Probation and in cooperation with the scientists our State Police lab have been able to do to safeguard our public.

What does this mean in terms of our ability to bring about a safer future that all of us prefer? Let me give you one example of a perpetrator named Stephen Sellman. We were able to arrest Stephen Sellman within the last 14 days. He has pled guilty to a rape for which he had previously eluded arrest for not 1, not 5, not 10, but 20 years.

So Stephen Sellman was able to elude arrest for 20 years, but because of successful DNA matches, today he is awaiting sentencing. And with the new DNA law, our law enforcement officials now have the ability to obtain DNA samples from those arrested and charged with violent crimes.

We used to have to wait until the conviction happened. But now, people charged with certain categories of violent crimes will have their DNA sampled, which actually squares with what great members of other states are already doing, and have been doing for some time. That has become a powerful new tool to resolve open investigations and prevent future crimes.

Because we're working together, because we have partnerships, because we're making progress together in our One Maryland, we have actually been able to see a reduction of about 20% in homicides Statewide, with Baltimore City actually leading the way in that. And we still have a long way to go, but it's this sort of cooperation – things that the State Police are now able to do in a much more timely, effective and stronger manner – that enables local law enforcement to solve more cases, which then puts repeat violent offenders behind bars where they belong.

We've made a number of strides, not only in the DNA log, not only in the lab, but we have also made investments in stab-proof vests for our correctional officers. We've made investments to upgrade our fleet of helicopters upon which Shock Trauma and, all too often, lives of first responders rely. We have upgraded to new Beretta pistols. We are investing in GPS equipment to do a better job of tracking repeat, violent, and often times very vulnerable juvenile offenders so that we can protect lives in that arena. And we are committed to doing everything that we can to back up our courageous men and women in uniform with the tools they need to protect their lives.

## Bearcat Announcement

Which takes us to the second part of the announcement, and that is that we're going to trade in the vehicle that stands behind us. As it's replacement, ladies and gentlemen, I present to you the Bearcat – the new State Police Rescue and Personnel Retrieval vehicle which is rolling over the South lawn to your left.

With a combination of federal homeland security grant dollars and State Police funds, we are investing in this new Bearcat which is safer, which is faster, and it's smarter than the vehicle that it replaces – this museum piece which stands behind me to the left. I'm told that Barney Rubble would have no trouble driving that vehicle because you can practically put your foot through the floorboards of it.

The vehicle to my right, the newer vehicle, has significantly more ballistic protection than its predecessor. It holds twice as many troopers and still has room for equipment. It's equipped with high intensity lights, a removable battering ram, and other important features which were previously unavailable to State Police during raids or hostage situations which arise from time to time, and other circumstances when these tools can become necessary.

It is better prepared to face the challenges that we might anticipate in the post 9/11 world, to enter areas where hazardous materials might be present. And while its predecessor struggled to make its way up to 45 miles per hour, this Bearcat can actually top 75 miles an hour, which is extremely important given the areas of first response the State Police have within their realm of responsibilities.

## Conclusion

We're making these investments because we want Maryland to be a national leader, not in its level of violent crimes, but in its improvement of public safety, and the degree to which it is able to protect our citizens. So together we have vowed to fight back against violence, whenever and wherever it occurs in our State.

I greatly appreciate all of you coming out here to be with us today.



0



0



Tags: [bearcat](#), [database](#), [dna](#), [evidence](#), [forensic](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Maryland Municipal League Keynote Address](#)  
[Announcement of Statewide Interoperability Strategy](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901





THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Announcement of Statewide Interoperability Strategy

July 10th, 2008

Thank you very much, County Executive, for your kind introduction and also for your courageous leadership. I also want to thank you for understanding that public safety is job one for all of us.

Behind me are individuals who have dedicated their life to the cause of saving lives in the State of Maryland, and all of them have been working together, and working in a cooperative way to make our State a safer, stronger, and more secure place.

As a people, we understand that public safety is a priority and that we need to invest in it. That's why we've been able to increase our investment in things like the State Police helicopters that play such a vital role in getting people to Shock Trauma during those golden moments when their lives can be saved. It's the MSFA funding, the Senator Amos Fund, and increasing funding for the Maryland State Police by approximately 12%.

We also celebrated a benchmark a few days ago when we recorded our 1000th DNA hit since the beginning of our DNA program in the State of Maryland. Keep in mind that program began in 1994, and until two years ago we only had 500 hits. In the last two years – with a concerted effort – we were able to record another 500 hits. That leads to an increased clearance rate of some of the most violent predators out there on our streets.

So far this year we are achieving a 20% reduction in homicides Statewide. We have achieved a 45% reduction in fire deaths Statewide, a 6% reduction in traffic fatalities and a 36% reduction of juvenile homicides.

I say that because every single life matters, and one very important part of being able to save lives is the ability to communicate across every first responder agency in our State. Since September 11, 2001, the whole country has been talking about the importance of interoperability – the ability to communicate with each other in responding to an emergency.

But I would guess that there's probably not one state that's truly achieved statewide interoperability. That's unthinkable, and the next time a big tragedy hits – whether man-made or something as horrible as Hurricane Katrina – the public is going to want to know what progress was made towards having a truly statewide system of

## Releases

interoperability.

So today we're updating you on a few things we've been working on and making a few announcements. We're announcing a three-part strategy for developing a statewide network for interoperable communications. It's our belief that together we can build one of the most effective systems in the nation, and there are, in essence, three parts to this strategy:

- 1.** All of us have come together across local, municipal, and statewide borders to agree that we need to have in our One Maryland one emergency radio system. So yesterday we issued an RFP for a statewide radio system.

Localities have been terrific about building their own systems over the past decade, but now we're going to have our State government fully engaged as well. We're able to leverage funds for this system because we're combining resources that had previously been spread across a number of different agencies.

So, rather than a disjointed collection of one-off, unconnected systems, we are now going to be building one interoperable system for our One Maryland.

- 2.** In a few moments, I'll be signing an Executive Order that will create the Maryland Statewide Communications Interoperability Program. We are going to be naming an Interoperability Director to run that program, and we are going to be setting up one office charged with strengthening public safety communications throughout our State.

We are really blessed and fortunate as Marylanders to have someone of John Contestabile's professionalism, technical expertise, and know-how – he will serve as our State's first Interoperability Director.

John currently runs the Office of Engineering and Emergency Services at MDOT. John has served for three decades in our State; he is now going to report directly to Colonel Sheridan. Our State Police are going to lead and drive this effort.

Under the Executive Order we will also create a Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee to help inform and guide our efforts. The 34 members of that committee from all over the State have really been working since last year. They have really gotten us far down the road towards being able to leverage dollars, towards the goal of Statewide interoperability.

- 3.** We are also going to be leveraging nearly \$25 million in federal Homeland Security grants to develop State and local communications interoperability projects. You might ask, why didn't we do this in the past?

Well, we did this in the past, but we did it in a very disjointed way – in a way that did not drive us toward that point on the horizon where all of us will be able to speak with one another on whatever radio systems we happen to have.

So that \$25 million will go to some 22 different projects all around the State. In many instances, those are projects that are led and initiated by local governments, but nonetheless fill a gap that we had from a statewide perspective. They will include the

construction of towers where we currently have dead zones, fiber optic connectivity projects, and regional interoperability projects.

We are also going to be connecting all of our 911 centers and our hospitals throughout our State. We may well be the first State that reaches that level of interoperability, tying together all our 911 centers and all our hospitals.

All of this moves us closer to that goal, when we will be able to have a truly statewide system of interoperable communications.

It's a horrible tragedy whenever any single life is lost for any reason in our State. It's a preventable tragedy when it happens because we can't communicate with each other.

It's not a matter of lacking the technology; it's not a matter of the know-how, or even, in these really challenging times, a matter of money. It's a matter of exercising that greatest of freedom's privileges: the privilege to be able to choose to be responsible for coordinating and cooperating across jurisdictional lines.

So that we actually show the rest of the nation what can happen when people come together, and they subordinate parochial interests to advance the common good, which in turn makes every neighborhood, every county, and every municipality in our State stronger.

So I want to thank you all for coming out here today.



0



0



Tags: [communications](#), [emergency](#), [interoperability](#), [statewide](#), [strategy](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [DNA and Bearcat Announcement](#)  
[Leonardtown Capital for a Day](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Leonardtown Capital for a Day

July 17th, 2008

Thank you Lt. Governor. Lt. Governor Brown has been such a tremendous partner these past 18 months, and he's a great public servant. During our last Capital for a Day Announcement he was in Georgia, serving on Reserve Duty – so he's serving our country and our State simultaneously and we're very lucky to have him in our Administration.



Mayor Norris, President Russell, Senator Dyson, Delegate Bohanan, speaking on behalf of our entire Cabinet, it's wonderful to be here today in St. Mary's County, the place where our State's history began. Where the *Ark* and the *Dove* brought settlers in search of a new life, where colonists celebrated the first Catholic mass in the colonies, Maryland's "mother county."

And on this, the Seventeenth day of July, 2008, in this beautiful and historic square, it's also home today to Maryland's State Capital.

So thank you Mayor Norris and thank you all to the citizens of Leonardtown and St. Mary's County for sharing your beautiful home with us. We love Leonardtown. Just how much do we love it here? Well in our first two years, we've invested \$38 million in capital funding here. In the previous administration they invested \$1.4 million in the comparable period of time. So we really, really, love Leonardtown.

We have our entire Cabinet with us today – and we held a Cabinet meeting at the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Hall this morning. Afterwards we had a chance to take a tour of your beautiful downtown and later today we'll have the chance to visit the Wharf and make an announcement about some waterway improvements.

Next we'll visit Bowles Farm – and we'll close our day with a visit to the Naval Air Base, where we'll host a roundtable discussion.

## Real and Steady Progress for our Shared Priorities

Over these past 18 months, we've been working to bring our State together around the issues that unite us. And working together as One Maryland, we've been able to make real and steady progress for our shared priorities.

One of these important priorities we all share is public education. Your great Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Michael Martirano has been a major part of our efforts to improve public education throughout our State – and he's helping us with our strategy for improving STEM education.

STEM stands for Science Technology Education and Math – disciplines in which our country is starting, quite frankly, to lag behind the rest of the world. So we're working to reverse these trends here in Maryland – and we're lucky to have Superintendant Martirano.

St. Mary's County has really been leading the way – St. Mary's County elementary and middle school students have attained a remarkable increase in their MSA scores – improving from 60% proficiency in mathematics in 2004 to 83% in 2008. We've also seen a significant increase in reading scores in this county – from 71% to 86% proficiency.

As a state, we're doing our best as a state to back you up. Working together, we're making an historic \$5.3 billion investment in public education. And it's already starting to pay dividends. Together, we're also making significant investments in school construction. In this county alone, we've invested \$17 million in our first two years. In the comparable period, the previous administration invested only \$9.8 million – so we've been able to do better by 73%.

## Sustainable Communities Announcement

Because we're in our State Capital today, we also wanted to make an announcement of a new statewide program we're launching, called the Sustainable Communities Initiative. Under this initiative, we'll be providing up to \$500,000 in assistance to local communities to help them implement sustainable growth practices into their comprehensive plans.

As part of this initiative, we'll also be working closely with communities to help them access State resources for planning and technical assistance – and we'll be streamlining our application process and coordinating support among our State agencies.

We believe that by working together, we can create that more sustainable future for our State that all of us prefer.

## Conclusion

So thank you again for welcoming us here today ... now we have a proclamation



0



0



Tags: [cabinet](#), [capital for a day](#), [leonardtown](#), [tour](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Announcement of Statewide Interoperability Strategy  
Signing of Evergreen Marine Agreement](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901





THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Signing of Evergreen Marine Agreement

July 21st, 2008

I want to thank our MDOT Secretary John Porcari and MPA Executive Director Jim Wyden for the terrific work they do here in continuing the proud tradition that is the Port of Baltimore, which is so critically important to our economy and to our connections to this global economy.

To everyone here today from Evergreen Marine, thank you all for your faith in us and in our ability to make timely investments here at the Port that will allow this to be an important place for Evergreen. I really, really appreciate this signing today.

For more than 3 centuries, ships have been coming here into this Port from lands very, very far away indeed. And opportunity has rolled in on the waves. Today, we continue to serve as a gateway to the world, to a global economy. This Port provides 50,000 jobs to our people and is the driving force behind our trade based economy.

And it's also been a place where we actually have some good economic news. Exports from the Port of Baltimore are up some 33% in the first quarter of this year compared to the first quarter of last year. Much of the \$8.9 billion in goods that we export sails out of this harbor, and as we recover as a State and come through these tough economic times, we can point to the fact that we've seen an 18% increase in exports since 2006 and a 35% increase since last year.

Our Port is also rightly proud of the productivity and effectiveness of our workforce. In fact, we have the most productive crane operations in the nation, right here in the Port of Baltimore.

In a few minutes we'll be signing an agreement that will help to ensure that our Port continues to bring opportunity to our State, keeping us connected to this global economy. At the same time, we're going to strengthen our partnership between Maryland and one of the most environmentally conscious container shipping companies in the world.

Under the terms of this agreement with Evergreen Marine, this group has agreed to ship a minimum 40,000 containers through our Port annually over the next decade. This will continue a three decade long partnership between our State and Evergreen that actually dates back to 1975... when I was in third grade.

## Releases

Today, the company is now our Port's second highest revenue producing customer. They've doubled their cargo over the past seven years.

And this agreement today is part of our overall vision for the Port...

- Working together, we've been able to attract Carnival Cruise lines to begin year-round service.
- Working together, we've been able to attract a major paper manufacturer to open a new 215,000 square foot facility.
- Working together, we're making real progress cleaning up across the water at the Masonville site – a very polluted site. We've removed 30,000 tons of trash and debris – including 30 tons of tires, 1,200 tons of scrap metal, more than 5,000 feet of electric wiring and cable. How's that for a measurable result and a measurable export?

The point of today's agreement is this – we are a strong State. Our economy is faring very, very well compared to other states' economies. And a big, big part of the reason for that is this place, this Port, this workforce that connects us to an ever more vibrant and growing international trade and global economy.

So I want to thank all of you for being here today.



0



0



Share

Tags: [agreement](#), [baltimore city](#), [evergreen](#), [marine](#), [port](#), [shipping](#), [terminal](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Leonardtowntown Capital for a Day](#)

[Testimony Before Senate Subcommittee on Government Efficiency](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901





THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Testimony Before Senate Subcommittee on Government Efficiency

July 24th, 2008

Chairman Carper: Our lead-off witness, again, as we know, is Governor Martin O'Malley, who was elected Governor of Maryland in 2006, coming on the heels of a hugely successful tenure as Mayor of the City of Baltimore. And early in his life as a young — as a young troubadour, he led his Irish group into the City of Wilmington and left the fans of O'Friel's Irish Pub standing and cheering in his wake, in an age when he was actually too young to get in legally to O'Friel's but came in and did a great job performing for us.

In 2005, to sort of segue from there, pivoting from that, in 2005 Time magazine named him one of America's top five big city mayors. As Mayor, he pioneered the CitiStat program, a statistics based tracking system that focuses in on areas of under performance, and demands a results-driven government model.

CitiStat has saved Baltimore residents more than \$350 million and was awarded Harvard University's prestigious Innovations In American Government Award in 2004.

As Governor, he has brought the program State-wide, implementing StateStat across all of Maryland's Government services. And it has provided a model for — not just for mayors, not just for governors, but I think maybe for presidents and for those of us who serve here in the Legislative Branch of our government.

We're honored by your presence and we are especially honored to be able to serve you on a daily basis with your mother, who works — as some of the people here know — works for Senator Mikulski. I'm not sure who works for whom. I don't know if Senator Mikulski is actually here, she was going to try to stop by today, but she may pop in. But if your mother is around or if she shows up, please introduce her to us. We're delighted that you're here and that your mom raised you so well.

Governor O'Malley, you are recognized to speak for as long as you wish.

Governor O'Malley: Chairman Carper, thank you very, very much. Thank you for the opportunity to be able to join you at this important committee and as part of the discussion of this day.

## Releases

I'm also joined by a number of members of my staff, apropos to today's discussion, Mr. Matt Gallagher is here, who runs our StateStat office and is the Deputy Chief of Staff for operations in our State Government.

Chairman Carper: Will you ask him to raise his hand?

Governor O'Malley: There he is.

Chairman Carper: All right.

Governor O'Malley: And he also before that ran the CitiStat office in the City of Baltimore.

It is an honor to be here today before you to talk about an issue that, frankly, I believe is changing for the better, the way that many of us look at the operations of our government, and it is our government.

It's our belief that the same performance based governing strategies that were so very valuable in igniting Baltimore's come-back, and have been so valuable to us at the State level in Maryland this past year and-a-half, can also work not only in the Federal Government, but in any large human organization.

In our public life, we tend to be very, very good at measuring inputs. We typically refer to those inputs as the budget and it is typically done on an annual basis. But we have often neglected to pay enough attention to outputs, to the product of government.

We're constantly asking what's our funding level, for example, for something like inter-operable communications, without asking whether or not the purchases that have been made by local, municipal, or State governments this year have been in accordance with the standard that moves us down the road to a point in time when all first responders throughout our nation can actually talk with one another when responding to an emergency.

Performance based government, in its essence, is about measuring, tracking and improving outputs. Inputs play a role, but only in the pursuit of outputs.

Mr. Chairman, I was first introduced to this model of governing about eight and-a-half years ago when I began my first term as Mayor of the City of Baltimore. And when we were handed the keys to that 16,000 person, \$2 billion a year operation known as city government, we inherited our fair share of challenges. Some of them very, very big challenges.

More than 300 of our fellow citizens every year were being murdered in our city, the streets were too often littered with trash, our schools were too often failing, and people were abandoning our city, in essence voting with their feet, and leaving behind them buildings and homes that were vacant and themselves becoming nuisances.

Quite understandably, the public at the time was demanding immediate results and immediate turn-around. And we rolled up our sleeves and got to work and found, in beginning that work, that there was very little in city government that was actually being measured in a consistent and real time fashion.

Now, don't get me wrong, oftentimes information was being collected at the ground level; sometimes very faithfully, sometimes very dutifully, not always the right information. But rarely, if ever, was it being used in a timely manner by the appropriators and the policy makers and the administrators at the highest level, in order to deliver better outputs and better outcomes for citizens on the ground.

So we were very blessed, I met a gentleman by the name of Jack Maple, who was one of the great minds behind the performance based strategies employed in the New York City Police Department for their turn-around. Jack was a Deputy Commissioner of Police under Commissioner Bratton.

And we felt, having observed ComStat in action, that if the NYPD could so successfully use simple off the shelf software, computer pin mapping, deploying police resources to where the crime was actually happening, that data collection and mapping technology could also work for the other things the government does, whether it's garbage collection or repairing street lights or addressing complaints about potholes.

And from this approach was expropriated the four main tenants of CitiStat, which were the main tenants of ComStat. Number one, timely, accurate information shared by all; number two, rapid deployment of resources; number three, effective tactics and strategies; and number four, relentless follow-up. Not on an annual basis, not on a bi-annual basis, but on a daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly basis, in order to improve performance.

So we started setting goals. We started measuring results and we did so weekly. We began tracking outputs instead of just tracking inputs and we started geomapping every conceivable service.

And in short time, we turned around a city where many neighborhoods were considered ungovernable, and we started making our city government function again in order to improve the quality of life in every neighborhood.

I go into some greater detail about some of the results we achieved in a written statement I submitted to the committee, but just a few examples.

Most important of all is the primary responsibility of all government and that is public safety. We were able to achieve a 40 percent reduction in violent crime, its lowest level actually in four decades.

We were able to back up with 98 percent success a 48-hour guarantee to address complaints from citizens about potholes.

We reduced the number of children exposed to dangerously high levels of lead from lead dust, lead paint poisoning, from homes, old homes and deteriorating homes by 65 percent in a relatively short period of time.

We were able to identify and reclaim by clearing title more than 5,900 vacant homes and buildings, which then enables them to be redeveloped, put back on the tax rolls.

We had a boarding and cleaning backlog of about some eight months is how long it took when we began to address a boarding or cleaning complaint from any citizen. By the time we left, that was down to 14 days. Now, that didn't happen overnight, it

didn't happen by measuring things annually. It happened by measuring them every single day and every week.

And probably the most important outcome of all is that we were able, by improving our quality of life with better performing government, to be able to reduce four decades of what had been seemingly insurmountable population loss and the city started growing again.

I brought two charts with us today; one of them is — on the far right is the combination of homicides and shootings. And you see sort of three kidneys of death. And you can see them over time — again, these are just measured annually, but we measured every two weeks and, by golly, when you look over your shoulder, you see you're actually making progress, shrinking those danger zones in our city.

This next map is the cleaning and boarding, measured not in terms of the reduction of the wait time, but in terms of the improvement of the productivity.

Again, these are annual outcomes, but the only way we were able to achieve the annual outcomes is because we developed systems so that we could measure every day, every week and that that information then was able to get back up to the policy makers, the administrators, the appropriators.

In 2007, when we were given the keys to an even larger organization, namely the State government of the great people of Maryland, we took this model with us, we created a program called StateStat, which has allowed us to track and measure progress on a level that we have never before been able to achieve in our State government.

And through our StateStat program, while only in its first year and-a-half, we have been able to identify problems and information sharing among various law enforcement agencies and across several jurisdictions and we work every day to improve them.

Secondly, we were able to identify right off the bat the imperative, the need to close the House of Corrections, an old, dilapidated and very, very dangerous prison in our State. We were able to close that, without incident, within 50 days, saving probably lives and also saving \$3 million in overhead and overtime.

We were also able to identify more than a hundred problems within our juvenile detention facilities, many of which had been under various consent decrees and court orders for a long, long time, without ever improving those conditions.

We are now using GPS technology and performance measures to target our resources that are geared at restoring the national treasure which is the Chesapeake Bay, through a program that we call BayStat.

You may notice that virtually anything, if you measure it, you can slap a Astat@ on the end of it and you have a new way of seeing whether what you're doing is making any impact on the problem you're trying to solve.

We go through again a few more accomplishments in the written statements I've submitted to you, but I wanted to close by just saying a couple of words about CitiStat, StateStat and why this model, I believe, can be and should be applied at the

Federal level, particularly in the realm of Homeland Security.

We believe the same approach can be relevant to governments and organizations anywhere and of any size.

Recently I had occasion to meet and to listen to Sir Michael Barber from Tony Blair's government, who applied many of these same principles to the administration of national government in the United Kingdom. And also implemented a new innovation called the Delivery Unit, to make sure that all of those along the chain of delivery — from policymaker to appropriator to administrator to implementer, down to the level of citizen — were actually held accountable for their piece of delivering improved performance.

The Environmental Protection Agency, I understand, has launched an EPAStat program and there are governments worldwide that are working to implement this model. In fact, we've had several delegations from governments all over the world who have come to visit us in Maryland to learn about the workings, the early workings, of our program of State-wide performance measurement.

Government performance management, I believe is really a nonpartisan issue. I mean, there's no Democratic or Republican way to fill a pothole, to make sure that you improve the outcomes, whether it's a municipal, State or national government.

The beauty of the map is that a map doesn't know whether a neighborhood is black or white or whether a neighborhood is rich or poor, or whether a neighborhood is Democrat or Republican. Most of us in government would say that is the responsibility of every public official to provide the most effective government possible and to provide for continued progress and improvement. That's what CitiStat and that's what StateStat are really about.

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to close today with words of Robert Kennedy who once said, AThere is no basic inconsistency between ideals and realistic possibilities. No separation between the deepest desires of the heart and of the mind, and the rational application of human effort to human problem. The rational application, well and timely measured, of human effort to human problems..

That's what performance based government is about. And I thank you so very, very much for your interest and your leadership in bringing this to our Federal government.

Thanks very much.

Chairman Carper: Governor, thank you very, very much. One of my fondest memories of being Governor was going to New Governor School. Every two years, right after the election, even numbered years, about the middle of November, the Governors — existing Governors, current Governors — would host the newly elected Governors and spouses and sort of teach the new Governors and spouses, by virtue of our own experience, the things we'd done wrong — in many cases. And maybe in some respects, the things we'd done right.

But we had a Center For Best Practices within the National Governor's Association, I suspect we still do, and I'm just wondering, does your experience with CitiStat and what you're doing with StateStat, does any of that show up within the National

Governor's Association? Either at a New Governor's School like forum or through the Center for Best Practices, so that other States can learn from what you've done both in Baltimore and in Maryland?

Governor O'Malley: Yes. To some degree other States have begun this in one way, shape or form. And some of them started doing it years ago, on the heels of seeing the success of the NYPD. In fact, Christine Gregoire, who began her first term as Mayor (sic) of Washington State, visited us actually before all the votes were totally counted in that close race —

Chairman Carper: I told this about Christine, as some of you may recall, she was not, I think, ultimately elected until about a month or so — a month and-a-half after the election — I said to Christine, I said, Keep counting the votes and recounting the votes until you win, then stop. And that's what they did.

Governor O'Malley: Well, during that, shall we call it a period of pre-transition, she sent a group of her people to Baltimore and has actually begun and does have a performance measurement program begun in Washington State.

I know I've had conversations with Kathleen Sebelius in Kansas and back at the time when I believe she applied it to some things as well.

We were — it is, I believe, part of the National Governor's Association, part of their Office of Best Practices and we were able to recruit from there — not only Malcolm Wolf, our Energy Administrator, with whom you had some discussions, but also our policy director is from that area.

The best ideas, you know, are the ones that you find from other practitioners. That's what we believe. And one of the exciting things about beginning this program in Baltimore years ago is that other cities have taken it up and I found myself learning from things that Mayor Cicilline in Providence was doing to apply this to juvenile justice, to be able to learn from Mayor Slay in St. Louis, the things he was doing on lead paint abatement and the like.

So I hope and I believe that there will be more of this going on at the State level that we can learn from.

Chairman Carper: In Baltimore I presume this initiative was something that you promoted as Mayor and as Governor, I presume that this is an approach that you've been championing in your State.

Governor O'Malley: Absolutely. And, you know, one of the things I've noticed, Senator, is that newly elected executives tend to have an easier time embracing this than those of us who have been in office for some time.

The very uncomfortable part of this process is that when you begin measuring things that have never been measured before, and start sharing that information widely and broadly, everyone comes to understand how poorly many things have been functioning in the past.

The fresh start of a new executive is, I think, something that enables an organization to make that sort of culture shift in ways that others find more difficult.

It's also been my experience that however uncomfortable that initial period is of the

openness and the transparency, which are the hallmarks I think of performance measurement — in a republican form of government, certainly — that openness and transparency over time pays tremendous dividends, however embarrassing the up-front moments are of, oh, my goodness, I didn't know that we were that bad at that particular service delivery. Over time, people come to respect and appreciate.

Another innovation that we borrowed from Mayor Richard Daly in Chicago was the use of the 311 center for all City services. In the past, you know, we would go around knocking on doors at campaign time and giving out the Where To Call For Help card. The Where To Call For Help card had some, you know, 300 various services listed alphabetically — you know, look under V for vacant houses, look under R for rat abatement. And then we'd have 300 different phone numbers.

But the 311 system on the front end and being able to have a call courteously answered and give every citizen, regardless of what neighborhood that, you know, the call came from — being able to give them a customer service number that was common to all citizens and a timeframe within which to expect that service, whether it was a broken curb, a pothole, a dead tree or what have you, the timeframe within which to expect that service to be delivered was something that gave our citizens a lot of optimism about the future and the fact that they still do, in fact, have the reins of controlling and holding accountable that government into which they pay their hard-earned dollars.

Chairman Carper: Well, you're going to have a whole crop of new Governors being elected this November and a couple weeks after that, they're going to show up at the NGA School for new governors and spouses and they're going to be looking for things, ways to provide good services working within the constraints of tight budgets, as you know. And I suspect that you could provide a little service for them, as you are here today, in sharing your successes in Baltimore and in Maryland.

And actually, taking time or taking good ideas, we used to steal ideas as Governor, steal the best ideas from one another. Sometimes attribute, sometimes not. But we've taken the idea of New Governors School and actually incorporated here in Washington, in the middle of November, two weeks after the election, we'll have — I call it New Senator School. But it's actually — it's orientation for new senators and their spouses. Three days, pretty much like NGA, with your current senators and spouses and basically learn from one another.

Governor O'Malley: And I trust that they put former Governors at the front of the class?

Chairman Carper: Actually three of the people that started it were Lyle Alexander, former Governor, former NGA chair, Tennessee; George Voinovich, former Governor, former NGA chair; Mark Pryor has been very active, as Attorney General in his State of Arkansas; and Liz Pruitt. So three out of the four old Governors.

In Baltimore you obviously have a City council, legislative branch, Governor, you have a general assembly, legislative branch. Here we have the legislative branch in which I'm privileged to serve.

What role in City, State and maybe in the Federal government, in the national government, can a legislative branch play? How is this relevant in the eyes of the

legislative branch in the City, State and in Washington?

Governor O'Malley: Initially, like many new ideas, it was greeted with a tremendous amount of skepticism and —

Chairman Carper: By your legislators?

Governor O'Malley: Yeah, let me talk first on the City Council and then I'll talk at the State level.

In the City Council, the concern was that this was going to undermine or somehow diminish the ability of council members to deliver for the constituents who called them for a variety of City services.

And so over time we were able to overcome that, primarily because of the openness of and the transparency of the process. And also the ability of City Council staff to be able to log into the same system that our 311 operators were able to log into, in order to give out those citizen service complaints and the timeframe within which to expect that those services would be delivered.

And once the council staff were trained in it and they went back and worked on their council members, a lot of the fears dissipated. Because everybody wants to be able to produce, everybody wants to know that when their constituent calls that they'll be able to pick up the phone and actually deliver.

On the State level we recently created a new fund for the restoration and the health of the Chesapeake Bay, a work that's been going on for some time, work that needs to be accelerated and improved.

The tendency, I think, in most legislative bodies is to specifically designate any new dollars that are appropriated for a given purpose, namely the Chesapeake, clean-up of the Chesapeake Bay.

In a big public health challenge like the Chesapeake Bay there are probably at least, you know, a hundred different activities that could be funded, that contribute to the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Everything from, you know, stormwater upgrades, to cover crops, to expanding buffer — you know, forested buffer — along streams.

The legislature, because of the openness, because of the transparency and because of the performance measurement that they saw in BayStat and their belief, their well-founded hope, I think, that the deployment of those dollars will be guided by the best science and the most effective use of those dollars, they chose, after some deliberation, not to specifically designate, you know, this first \$2 million shall go to this, this next \$3 million shall go here to that.

And so I think that legislators that have seen the beginning of this process are encouraged that they will be able to get more timely, accurate reports on the things that are working, the things that are not, which then will I think make them much more effective in exercising their oversight of the things that we do fund, the things that we maybe should fund more of, and the things that perhaps we should not be funding as much of.



0



0



Share



Tags: [congress](#), [dc](#), [government efficiency](#), [national](#), [senate](#), [statestat](#), [testimony](#), [washington](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Signing of Evergreen Marine Agreement](#)  
[Infants and Toddlers Program Announcement](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901

MENU

[Maryland.gov](#)
[Phone Directory](#)
[State Agencies](#)
[Online Services](#)



THE OFFICE OF

GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY

f

+

YouTube

ALL

## Categories

Select Category

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:

Enter email address...

Subscribe

Unsubscribe

## Archives

Select Month

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Infants and Toddlers Program Announcement

July 25th, 2008

Thank you so much for having me here to join you. Today, we're making progress for Maryland's future by making progress for our kids (Applause).

On Monday, we celebrated together the signing of legislation to protect athletic opportunities for children with disabilities, and tomorrow we'll be celebrating the tremendous steps that we've made as a society since the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act 18 years ago.

But what I wanted to talk to you about today in our time together is really about what we have always had the freedom to do... what has always been a manifestation of the best of who we are as a people, and that is our freedom to choose to practice the politics of posterity, the politics that says that the choices that we make in the here and now are important in the here and now, but they're even more important for tomorrow. They're more important for our children who represent our greatest accomplishments and our greatest achievements as people.

When we were going through those very, very tough choices and with all of the talk of revenues and all of the talk of the \$1.8 billion in cuts and reductions in spending, I got a call from a friend of mine named Dan, who has a child with a developmental disability. And he said, "Martin, look, I know that you have a tough job, and I know that, you inherited some big challenges. He said but don't forget, there's a lot of families that are struggling, and there's a lot of families who have been waiting a very long time to be able to enjoy that same, simple, basic human dignity of being able to look in their children's eyes and know that we as parents and that we as a society are doing our very best so that they can develop to their fullest, in God's eyes. So, in all of your decisions, please try to do something so that we can make more progress for them."

And that's what we've done. Today, we are going to build upon the progress of our past, and we are announcing an additional \$4.6 million in tough times to invest in our efforts to assist infants and toddlers with disabilities and developmental delays. That increases total funding to \$10.4 million (Applause).

That breaks down to a 78 percent increase in investment per child. Taken together, that is a 56 percent increase from where we were in a comparable period under the prior four years.

Releases

These dollars will help our infants and toddlers programs in so many ways. It will increase staff so that we can decrease the waiting list for people that want to get their children in the program.

We are now going to be able to meet the needs of 13,000 children in our State, giving them a stronger start to life and providing viable support for them and for their families, and really a much stronger future for all of us who are proud to call Maryland home. We have done a number of important things over these last 18 months. One of those things at the core of our work together has been to restore fiscal responsibility. As an end in and of itself? No. So that we could be one of only seven states to have a AAA bond rating? No. It's so that we can do things like this today. That's why we do it. We do it so we can make progress. We do it so that we can virtually triple what we're investing in school construction throughout our State and in Baltimore County.

We do it so that we can continue to invest more than any other state in America in the skill and education of our people, which leads to a better work force than most any other state and therefore a better economy than any other state, even in these tough and difficult times of financial downturn.

Working together, we've done a number of other important things. We revised our inter-agency transition counsel to help our children move through school seamlessly. We have, working together, increased by \$12.3 million funds for the transitioning youth program to ensure greater career and educational opportunities for our kids. And working together also increasing by \$2.7 million funds the Community Services Waiting List to support both children and adults with disabilities in our community.

Now, we're not done. We are by no means done. The march, the journey, the progress of any great people is never done. But, you know what? We are back in the business of making progress... progress that's based on our sheer belief in the dignity of every individual, our sheer belief in our own responsibility to advance the common good and our understanding that there is a unity to spirit and to matter and that what we do in our own life does matter.

Thank you all very, very much.



Tags: [childhood](#), [Infant](#), [infants and toddlers](#), [program](#), [toddlers](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Testimony Before Senate Subcommittee on Government Efficiency](#)  
[Center for American Progress: Fiscal Responsibility](#) »



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Center for American Progress: Fiscal Responsibility

July 31st, 2008

Thank you very, very much. It's great to be with all of you. John (Podesta), thank you for your very kind introduction. And thank you for the extremely important work that you do here at the Center. It's great to be with all of you at the Center for American Progress. Given all of the setbacks that our country's strength and international standing has suffered in the last several years, I always feel a tremendous sense of optimism in coming to a place like this that's dedicated to the notion that with honest reflection and positive actions, our best days can actually still be ahead of us.

Last year, when you were kind enough to speak with us, to be honest, we were like a rookie quarterback that had just signed their first contract. We had high hopes but very little yardage on the field as yet. But now, after some of the scars and bruises from a year and a half of moving that ball of progress up and down the gridiron, it's good to be able to share some reflections and some highlights with friends.

These are tough economic times, as we all know. The Wall Street Journal reported just a few days ago that, combined, our state governments are facing a \$40 billion budgetary shortfall. Some of these fiscal wounds are, of course, cascading down to states from an enfeebled federal government and a slowing national economy. And others are self-inflicted. Many states have had to deal with budget shortfalls by carving into priorities like public safety or public education or health care. The Wall Street Journal wrote about some of the pain that's being felt by foster parents who are seeing their reimbursements cut by states, even as the price of food and fuel rise. Other states are raising the cost of in-state college tuition by double-digit percentages, which unfortunately and unwisely then pushes the opportunity of a college education beyond the reach of so many working families.

Now, of course, none of these options are popular. But while some of these choices pull us backwards, there are other choices that we can make that can and will and must move us forward. And I want to share with you a few thoughts about the choices that we've made recently as a free people in Maryland about the centrality of fiscal responsibility to the cause of progress and about why, I believe, the timeless values we choose to embrace again are so very, very important to the future of our country, especially in these challenging times.

## Releases

In other words, I want to talk to you about the American value of fiscal responsibility. I want to talk with you about the politics of posterity. You see, when I was sworn in as Governor of Maryland, I inherited not only a proud and revolutionary tradition, but I also inherited a less proud and very crippling \$1.7 billion budget deficit and a structural deficit. A \$1.7 billion deficit in a \$15 billion general fund and very difficult economic times. And we found ourselves very quickly facing that age-old dilemma of whether we would allow circumstances to change us or whether we would change our circumstances.

### **Making Government Work**

You see, my Lieutenant Governor, Anthony Brown, and I did not campaign on that cotton-candied falsehood that our government cannot work. To the contrary, the first three points of our 10-point plan for moving Maryland forward were these: Number one, we will make our government work again; number two, we will make our government work again; and, number three, we will make our government work again. Call me old-fashioned, but I think since all of us pay taxes, our government should actually work for the hard-earned dollars that we invest in our common good.

You know, there's a classic Groucho Marx routine where he's in a very exclusive white-table-cloth restaurant, and eventually, at the end of the meal that he's having with his friends, the waiter puts the tab down in front of Groucho. And Groucho looks at the check, and he says, "This check is an outrage." He hands it to his buddy and says, "I wouldn't pay it if I were you." (Laughter.)

Well, in our recent history as a State – and I think most of you would agree, in our recent history as a nation – we've been a bit like Groucho Marx at the restaurant table, except instead of passing on the check to our dinner companions in the here and now, we have also been passing on that check to future generations, to the next generation. And adding insult to injury, we're also passing along collapsing bridges and crumbling infrastructure, devastated cities and a depleted and exhausted military. We're passing along temporary learning shacks instead of modern classrooms. We're passing on a plague of home foreclosure where once there was rising home ownership. We're passing along unaffordable college tuitions, where once there was opportunity for all. We're passing along a federal government so weakened by the gluttonous politics of the present that it cannot even manage to get bottled water to the dying citizens of a hurricane-ravaged city like New Orleans.

When faced with a crippling structural deficit in Maryland, we asked our neighbors to embrace once again the politics of posterity – the politics which embraces the duty we have, not only to our neighbors, but also to the next generation. The politics that believes, in fact, our tomorrows can be better than our todays and that each of us has a personal freedom and a moral responsibility by our own actions and, yes, by our own investments to make it so. Just as our parents and grandparents built our roads, our schools, our hospitals with their hard work and their hard-earned dollars, we asked our fellow Marylanders to join us in choosing a better future for our children and for our grandchildren to practice again the politics of posterity.

### **Restoring Fiscal Responsibility in Maryland**

Well, while a slowing economy exacerbated our circumstances in Maryland, the primary cause, unfortunately, was really of our own making. What do I mean by

that? Well, in a flash of bipartisan irresponsibility, we had locked in a few years ago a nearly \$2 billion increase in expenditures, mostly for public education, while at the same time cutting income taxes for millionaires and everybody else, at a cost of another billion dollars.

Well, that math eventually does not work. And despite a few billion dollars that our predecessor pushed through in backhanded and stealthy property tax increases, every imaginable toll and fee increase and a 40 percent hike in college tuitions, the chickens of our bad math were coming home to roost, and they were coming home very quickly and early in this new administration. In the words of the great Abraham Lincoln, we could no longer escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.

Now, nothing that we did was popular, and nothing that we accomplished in the three-week special session was easy. In fact, get this, four of the six pieces of legislation that made up for the fiscal fix, four of the six pieces of legislation passed by a margin of just one vote in either the House or the Senate. But through all of that difficult consensus forged in time, the countless meetings with Democrats and Republicans alike, one on one, in groups and delegations, we continued to proclaim those shared goals that at the end of the day needed to unite us in our purpose.

And what were those goals? The same as they are today, to strengthen and grow the ranks of our middle class, including our family businesses and our family-owned farms; to improve public safety and public education in every part of our State; and to expand opportunity – the opportunity to learn, the opportunity to earn, the opportunity to enjoy the health and the people we love, to expand the opportunity to enjoy the environment we love to more people rather than fewer – most importantly, future generations.

With a lot of hard work and with a lot of tough votes, we were able to restore fiscal responsibility, starting by reducing future spending growth by about \$2 billion. We were able to make these cuts in less than two years while adhering to rational spending affordability guidelines – guidelines which, by the way, our predecessors had totally ignored when they allowed State spending to balloon by 22 percent during their final two years in office.

We also eliminated 700 government positions. We implemented performance-based management practices through a new program called StateStat that helped us eliminate nearly 20 million in overtime costs. We eliminated, or rather, recovered \$20 million in Medicaid fraud recovery. We closed a very obsolete and violent and shameful place known as the House of Corrections, which was not only the right thing to do for the safety of all of those who worked there, it also resulted in ongoing savings of about \$10 million a year for taxpayers.

And we also replaced what had been well-intentioned funding indexes that had really juiced unsustainable annual increases in the past and threatened to accelerate spending in the immediate future. In addition to reducing spending growth, we were also able to pass a package of legislation that modernized our tax code while lowering the income tax rate for 90 percent of Marylanders and increasing the State earned income tax credit for hard-working families and our aspiring middle class.

At those \$2 billion and very difficult cuts in spending reductions, the basic elements

of the tough revenue options were these, and again, none of them popular:

1. We raised what was the 42nd lowest sales tax in the nation from five cents to six cents, and we dedicated a portion of that increase yield to our Transportation Trust Fund – a fund like Program Open Space that had been hit over the years, time and time again, rather than going to traffic solutions and mass transit. We also raised by a dollar the tobacco tax.
2. We passed, believe it or not, the first progressive income tax in the history of our State, asking those who made more than a million dollars a year to pay more, while reducing the rate slightly for others and really substantially for families earning less than \$125,000 per year. Combining the effects of the progressive income tax with the sales tax, 46 percent of Marylanders actually ended up seeing their State tax burden reduced.
3. We provided additional relief for working families by increasing by 33 percent the personal exemption for people making less than 75,000 a year, and by increasing the State earned income tax credit by 25 percent.
4. We also raised the second lowest corporate income tax in the Mid-Atlantic region by about 1 percent, and we split the proceeds of that between the Transportation Trust Fund and the first ever higher education trust fund to keep college education more affordable.
5. And finally, we agreed to send the deadlocked issue of limited State-controlled slot machine gambling, at just five locations, to referendum in order to let the people finally decide an issue that had been divisive and gridlocked and deadlocked in our State for many years. Closing this loophole will allow us to retain approximately \$500 million that otherwise would go across the river to West Virginia and over the Mason-Dixon Line to Pennsylvania or to Delaware.

So, those were the basic elements of the things that we did. These are difficult times and even more difficult now than they were eight months ago when we called the special session. But even then, our neighbors were hurting, and it was not something that any of us enjoyed doing or that we relished. We're asking our neighbors to sacrifice more at a time when they were already feeling hammered, where the dollar was already being weakened.

None of these decisions were made lightly, but at the end of the day, like so many of our counterparts in other states, our backs were up against the wall, and none of us want to be part of the first generation of Americans that leaves our State, our country or our world in a weaker condition. We all want to be able to pass on this world to our kids, to give them a better opportunity in life.

## **The Common Good of Fiscal Responsibility**

I want to talk with you, most importantly, about the common good of fiscal responsibility and why I believe that the people that we serve actually have a far greater capacity to embrace, understand and make investments than sometimes we give them credit for. We made absolutely no attempt to hide or to mask the options or the choices that were ahead of us.

Contrary to what might have been well-intentioned public relations advice, rather than rolling the entire package into a Friday holiday afternoon and putting it out at 5:00 p.m., instead we rolled out each of the individual pieces of this fix of fiscal

responsibility on individual days over about a 10-day – it's starting to seem like 10 years – over a 10-day period of time, so that each day we were announcing a different piece so that our colleagues in the media could report it, so that the citizens that we work for could understand piece by piece how it all fit together. We did countless town halls with charts and graphs and lots of questions and answers, all across the State. And by taking these actions, we were able to address a huge deficit that was years in the making.

Two years ago, the rating agencies affirmed Maryland's AAA bond rating. Maryland is only one of seven states in the nation that enjoys a AAA bond rating: Moody's, Standard & Poors and Fitch ratings. But the true value of restoring fiscal responsibility really isn't found in the executive summaries of rating agencies. The true value of restoring fiscal responsibility is found in the progress that we're now able to make for the common good and that stronger future that all of us prefer.

By restoring fiscal responsibility we are now able to make meaningful investments in what we consider our State's greatest asset, which is the talents and the brainpower and the ingenuity of our people. As part of these investments, we are now able to hold the line for going into now the third year in a row of freezing in-state college tuition. I don't believe that there's another state in the union that is doing that in these tough times.

By restoring fiscal responsibility, we are now able to offer more funding for community colleges, including \$150 million more for facility upgrades. We have also increased by 400 percent our investment in adult literacy. By restoring fiscal responsibility, we're now able to make what is an all-time high investment of \$5.3 billion in K-12 education, including a record \$741 million in school construction. I see my colleagues here from Charles County nodding their heads. \$741 million over two years in school construction so that we can begin replacing those temporary trailers with modern classrooms. That's more than a 300 percent increase over the comparable period of the former administration.

By restoring fiscal responsibility, we're now able to embark on one of the largest expansions in health care in our State's modern history, which will extend health care coverage to 100,000 people that otherwise would have had no coverage whatsoever. By restoring fiscal responsibility, we're now able to offer incentives to small family-owned businesses and their employees to join the ranks of the insured.

By restoring fiscal responsibility, we have now been able to close the donut hole in that Medicare D prescription drug program for seniors up to 300 percent of poverty. By restoring fiscal responsibility, we're now able to provide more children with health insurance. We've been able to expand access to quality dental care so that we don't have another sad tragedy like the little boy in Prince George's County, Deamonte Driver, who died when an infection in his tooth became an infection in his brain. He died because he couldn't get decent dental coverage or dental care.

By restoring fiscal responsibility, we're now able to make progress towards improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay. We created and secured funding for a new trust fund for the Bay's restoration for the first time. Also, in a quarter-century, we updated our Critical Areas legislation that protects us against the damage that could be done by shoreline development.



By restoring fiscal responsibility, we are now also using every single dollar of Program Open Space, get this, for Program Open Space, instead of taking those dollars to plug budget holes, which enables us to protect more rural and agricultural lands. By restoring fiscal responsibility, we're also going to make investments in public safety. In our State, we had a backlog of some 24,000 DNA samples that should have been taken from violent offenders and analyzed that simply went unanalyzed because we couldn't afford to do that. We've been able to knock out that backlog because we were able to restore fiscal responsibility.

And, finally, by restoring fiscal responsibility, we're now able to actually focus on the future again, and we announced recently a \$1.1 billion investment in the 10 years ahead to expand and grow our life sciences economy in Maryland.

## **Steady Progress for our Shared Priorities**

But what have all of these investments meant for our shared goals? I believe it's helping us make real and steady progress again towards those shared goals. The Milken Institute recently moved our State's bioscience ranking from fourth in the country to second in the country. And one of the key reasons, when they looked at nine or 10 different criteria, was the fact that Maryland is investing more in the education, training and skills and development of our human capital than any other state in the nation, more than even Massachusetts. We believe it's no coincidence that Forbes Magazine said that Maryland has the third best workforce in the country. It's because Education Week says we had the third best public school system in the country. We invest in the talents and the ingenuity of our people.

We've been gratified to see the results paying off. This year, our elementary and middle school students had their best showing ever in the Maryland Student Assessment test with elementary math and reading scores up 29 percent compared to where they were five years ago. We've also made real progress in closing the performance gap between African-American and Hispanic students with their white counterparts.

In Baltimore City, elementary and middle school students earned their highest scores in both reading and math since we began testing. Three years ago, 48 percent of our City's fifth graders scored at least proficient in math. This year, 67 percent are scoring proficient in math.

In the past year, our rate of job readiness as a State has been four times that of the nation. Net exports for the Port of Baltimore are up 32 percent in the first quarter compared to last year. We are tied on the East Coast with Virginia and New Hampshire for having the lowest unemployment rate in the country.

And, you know, our work isn't done. The work of progress is never done. But we are making progress again. And during the past year and a half, we've had to ask our neighbors to make tough choices and, yes, to make tough investments in order to make progress possible again and to hold the line on protecting the priorities that have made Maryland a great State and promises to make us a stronger State in the future. Those are investments in education, and those are investments in our children, investing in our future, expanding health care, investing and being able to pass on an environment in a cleaner condition than when we inherited it. All of these things are the politics of posterity and all of these are the things that make me

proudest of the people that I have the honor to be able to serve.

## Conclusion

You know, Maryland has a nickname in history. We're known as the Old Line State. And some people think that that comes from the Mason-Dixon Line. Well, it actually comes from 1776 – from the Maryland 400 volunteers. Volunteers. When Washington's army was *this* close to annihilation, less than two months after the Declaration of Independence, and in an indefensible position with Brooklyn Heights – they were faced with overwhelming odds and the British army was closing in around them.

And these 400 Marylanders stepped up into that breach. And there is a plaque to this day over the mass graves of the 256 of them who died so that Washington's army and the American Revolution could live. And it reads simply this, "In honor of the Maryland 400, who on this day on August 27th, 1776, saved the American army."

Now, these volunteer soldiers, some of them free black citizens in a still as yet slave-holding country, they fought under a flag that had 13 stars and 13 stripes. But the stars were arranged in a circle, and there was one star in the center, and that star was us – that middle State, that central State, that State around which other states rallied, especially in times of great adversity. That's the State that we have been, and that's the State that we are again.

And I really appreciate you coming out here today to talk with me. Thanks.



0



0



Tags: [center for american progress](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Infants and Toddlers Program Announcement](#)  
[ESRI Executive Leadership Seminar](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# ESRI Executive Leadership Seminar

August 3rd, 2008

Thank you very much for inviting me to join you.

I especially want to thank Jack Dangermond and everyone at ESRI for the remarkable partnership between Maryland and ESRI that stretches back many years.

There are very few people in this world whose talents and insights have the sort of widespread impact on management and governance that Jack has had with the rapid evolution and embrace of GIS — it will prove, I believe, to be a lasting impact that strengthens the vitally important relationship between citizens and their government, maybe even between this generation and the next...

Thanks to the remarkable work being done by Jack Dangermond and his professional progeny around the world, we've reached a point in our human history where we're now able to change the course of a city's history, a state's history, a nation's history ... house-by-house, block-by-block, neighborhood-by-neighborhood — and yes, neighbor by neighbor

...Such is the power of this merger of mapping with the coordination of human effort,... To heal an entire ecosystem by mapping and pinpointing every parcel, every square mile, every peak and valley, field and stream, farm and forest — all of the otherwise disparate places and actions that, coordinated together, form one set of green lungs that our state needs in order to breathe and survive as a desirable place to live.

As today we stand at our own cutting edge of history, GIS is more than just a nice technology — it is a quantum technical advance in the effectiveness of self-governance and self-determination. It is a powerful and transparent new tool for progress provided we are unafraid of setting goals, and unafraid of openly measuring the performance of our public institutions and efforts. Unafraid of what Robert Kennedy called "the rational application of human effort to human problems."

For central to all of this is what you do every day at ESRI — what many of us have come to San Diego to talk and share ideas about on this August afternoon — using geography and mapping to organize, coordinate, and above all hold accountable hundreds and thousands of individual actions that together allow us to make progress for the common good.

## Releases

Serving the people of the great State of Maryland as their Governor, and also having served the people of the great City of Baltimore as their Mayor, I am more convinced than ever of the indispensable importance of these principles and mapping technology to the cause of progress.

I wanted to spend our time together this afternoon talking about our experience in Maryland, and as I do so I'd like you to consider the answer to this question – why is it that virtually any display of GIS technology quickly inspires someone one to ask the timeless question, "...Can you show me my house?"

Show me my house. We'll come back to that,...

### Setting Goals

Before we talk about mapping and geography, let's talk about shared beliefs and the shared goals that flow from them in a community.

In other words, what are we trying to accomplish? Where are we going, and how do we know we're getting there? These are timeless human questions. If as Toynbee writes "man progresses in response to adversity," these are the very questions that provoke progress. These are questions Moses no doubt heard asked of him time and again by the Israelites throughout their 40 years in the desert.

If we believe in concepts like "the common good", if we believe in individual worth and the individual right to secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity, if we believe that individual actions make social progress possible, then a certain mission statement emerges for a free people.

With American Revolutionary flare, Franklin Roosevelt lead our country in the community of the world with the beautiful simplicity of the Four Freedoms: The first, he proclaimed, is freedom of speech and expression,... everywhere in world. The second is the freedom of every person to worship God in his own way,...everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want,...everywhere in the world. And the fourth is freedom from fear – anywhere in the world.

In leading the State of Maryland, our stated goals are:

1. To strengthen and grow the ranks of our middle class, our family owned businesses and family farms,
2. To improve public safety and public education in every region of our State .
3. To expand opportunity – the opportunity to learn and earn, the opportunity to enjoy the health of the people we love and the environment we love to more people rather than fewer.

When leading the City of Baltimore — in the face of some very serious challenges — our clearly stated and pursued goals were

1. to make Baltimore a safer, cleaner, healthier place
2. to make our City a better place for children to grow up
3. to make our City a better place where businesses invest and grow

"Show me my house,..."

You see, when we were handed the keys to the 16,000 person, \$2 billion a year

operation known as the Baltimore City Government, we inherited our fair share of challenges. Some of them very, very big challenges.

For starters, we were battling one of the highest violent crime rates and one of the highest addiction rates in the nation. And after 30 years of the biggest population loss of any major City in America, we had fewer residents and less revenues with which to combat our problems. Too often this left us a legacy of underperforming schools, underperforming and unresponsive city services, littered streets and alleys, thousands of vacant buildings and vacant hearts.

Our citizens voted for change, and they knew that our City's survival depended on that change coming about as quickly as possible – which brings me to:

## **Performance Measurement**

Those of us in the public sector tend to be very good at measuring “inputs.” For example, we ask “what’s the funding level for environmental protection?” But less often do ask, “how much nitrogen are we keeping out of this particular waterway this month versus last month?”

When our new City Administration rolled up our sleeves and got to work, we found that there was really very little in city government that was being measured in a timely, accurate, or real-time manner. Information was often being collected but rarely, if ever, was that information being shared with all or even shared with managers and executives – it is impossible to steer or speed a ship without a compass or controls.

At that important threshold we were guided by another talented and visionary Jack, Jack Maple, who was one of the key pioneers under Commissioner Bratton behind the highly successful ComStat program put to use by the New York Police Department. We felt that if the NYPD could so successfully use computer pin-mapping to put crimes on the map and deploy cops to the dots and thereby improving public safety, then data collection and mapping technology could work for everything else that government does.

## **Relentless Follow-Up and Examples of Progress**

Now, data collection and gis mapping without action, of course, is pointless. That’s why Jack Maple’s Comstat tenets immediately became our four basic tenets of Citistat: timely accurate information shared by all, rapid deployment of resources, effective tactics and strategies, and relentless follow-up and assessment.

But to drive progress and build trust with our public, we started doing something revolutionary – we started geo-mapping every conceivable service, problem, and opportunity so we could measure outcomes and performance, not once a year, but every day. Why? Because a map doesn’t know whether a neighborhood is black or white, or rich or poor, or Democratic or Republican, but it does know where our problems and opportunities are, and we deployed our resources accordingly. And we made progress, for all, together.

We have a couple examples for you of these strategies in action – and how mapping played an important role as the standard gauge of railroad track on which the trains of progressive action were made to run in concert and movement

together. If we can get the first slide (**kidneys of death slides**) we have an example of how we applied the principles of performance based government and used geo-mapping to tie the disparate pieces together.

These kidney shaped red areas on this slide from 1999 show three clouds representing the most deadly areas of our city. By using mapping to target and concentrate resources to the most crime challenged areas — block-by-block, street-by-street we were able to chip-away each year. Can we see the next few slides please? By using mapping to deploy our resources strategically, the kidneys got smaller and smaller. And by the time we left office, violent crime was down 40%, its lowest level in four decades.

Let's see another example, shall we? (**Project 5000 slides**) As people abandoned our City, they left behind them fifteen thousand vacant homes. But from this challenge also came opportunity, in the form of vast potential for redevelopment. Through the power of mapping, we were able to create our city's first-ever complete inventory of housing stock including the ownership information that could be used and accessed by managers of boarding and cleaning crews, by those responsible for policing, those responsible for inspections, those responsible for filing the lien on the property after cleaning, those in the city's housing department responsible for clearing title, and taking title, and those responsible for disposing of title so the property could be redeveloped and returned to the tax rolls.

"Show me my house,..."

Mapping showed us where we had opportunities to strategically target our scarce demolition dollars, and where to begin to assemble and clear lots to sell to private or nonprofit developers to create new, living neighborhoods. In a shrinking City that for decades had never bothered to take title and awaken deaden capital, we ultimately acquired 5,900 properties over just a few years time.

Among our other successes:

- We were able to back up with 98% success, a 48-hour guarantee to address complaints from citizens about potholes. (**slide**)
- We were able to reduce by 65% the number of children poisoned by dangerous levels of lead. (**slide**)
- We were able to reduce what had been an eight month wait for a citizen complaint to clean and board a vacant house, to a mere 14 days.

While some may scoff at attacking potholes, crime, trash and grime, we believed — and continue to believe — that there are some basic aspirations shared by all of humanity. There is no Democratic or Republican way to fill a pothole, no political ideology to picking up illegally dumped garbage, to removing graffiti, to cleaning an alley. And all children regardless of their parents party affiliation, deserve a healthy start, a decent home, and a place to play where they don't have to dodge hypodermic needles or bullets.

With goals, performance measures, and mapping, we were able to empower our citizens to reverse four decades of what had been seemingly insurmountable population loss, and the city started growing again. And under my successor, Mayor

Dixon, the progress continues and so does Citistat. On a year to date basis, Baltimore today is achieving her biggest reduction in homicides in 30 years,...

In the past year and half we've been implementing these same performance measurement and mapping strategies statewide in Maryland.

## Building One Map for One Maryland

And just as mapping was central to our ability to set goals, track performance and engage in relentless follow-up in Baltimore, it is becoming a major part of everything we are doing at the State level. And because we recognize this, we're using ESRI's software to develop a single, statewide base-map, not only of the Bay, but of our entire State. 400 years after Captain John Smith drew the first map of the Chesapeake Bay, we're mapping every parcel and plot of land in our entire State.

While many governors – particularly in industrial states — wake up every morning, and open their newspaper to read about jobs leaving their State. In Maryland, we have the opposite problem – which is the more pleasant problem to have — but it's a challenge nonetheless.

You see, about 21% of our State is already developed, and there's another 21% that's protected. That leaves nearly 60% of our State which could either be conserved or developed, based on the decisions we make in our own here and now. Over the last three decades we've already seen our State's population expand by 30%. And at the same time though, we've increased our developed acres by 100%. If we continue to grow without implementing smarter growth strategies, we're going to decimate our ecosystem – potentially losing 500,000 acres of farm and forest lands we'll never get back.

Just as performance-based strategies and mapping gave Baltimore a better future, our hope is that these same strategies and mapping can help us create, build and maintain a more sustainable future for growth in Maryland.

For our efforts to have synergy, to be targeted, to be orchestrated and coordinated for maximum effectiveness, we need to be working off of the same map both in State government and with our local and federal partners. So we're making the map available to all our partners – including our citizen partners, who will be able to access it from the internet.

Population growth in Maryland is predicted to exceed one million people in the next several years; therefore:

1. We're using GIS technology to help us maintain a network or "green print" of the wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, farms, forests and public spaces that serve as the lungs which allow the rest of our State to breathe. Just as mapping told us which vacant houses to buy up in Baltimore, today it's telling us which parcels to target for preservation, conservation and restoration. Which parcels to buy up with precious preservation dollars? Which portions of the Bay are most in need of restoration funds? Which lands in our State require government to step in and protect.
2. We're using these strategies to guide us through the creation of "BRAC Zones" – BRAC being the federal government's base realignment and closure

process, which is bringing 40-60 thousand jobs over the next 5 years. We're using BRAC zones to encourage growth in areas that are most capable of absorbing it – in other words, areas where growth will have the least amount of impact on our eco-system. ESRI's technology is so precise that we're actually able to figure out what regions our new citizens will want to settle in based on the sort of neighborhoods from which they will most likely be relocating.

3. We're also using these strategies for transit-oriented development, a vision for smart growth which calls for preventing sprawl by clustering growth around existing transit infrastructure so that we can offer housing and transit choices that promote cleaner air and reduce dependency on high cost gasoline.
4. We're also using gis and demographic mapping to better protect and prepare our citizens against homeland security threats and natural threats from hurricanes and rising sea levels.

### **VIDEO PRESENTATION**

Let's run the video presentation, ...

### **SLIDE-BY-SLIDE SCREENSHOTS**

### **Conclusion (*Relationships*)**

During my days as Mayor of Baltimore, as the minority mayor of majority African American City, I can proudly and credibly claim to have attended more Baptist and A.M.E. services than any catholic public servant on the planet,...

At the great Bethel AME church, Pastor Reid sometimes spikes a robust call and response from the pulpit when he proclaims – “if it's not about the relationship,...?” and the congregation responds in unison, “it's not about anything.”

The Relationship – the relationship between ourselves and others, ourselves and time, ourselves and place, ourselves and this space we share with others, the relationship between ourselves and God.

Why do teenagers and young people today flock to Facebook or MySpace? It's not for solitude but for relationship; not for distance but for proximity; not for division but for connection.

During my years as mayor, we would often invite neighborhood leaders to City Hall and I would have the opportunity to show my citizens and neighbors – my bosses — their new performance measurement tool of the CitiStat room with its charts, graphs, timely accurate information, aerial photography and maps. Without exception, and regardless of whether the group was from a black or white neighborhood, a rich or poor neighborhood, my presentation was always interrupted within ten minutes by the hand in the back and that question – “Can you show me my house?” – so, why is that?

Is it to know that I matter to my government? Is it to know that I matter and have value to my neighbors?

Is it to know that my government works and therefore matters to me? Is it to understand what is around me?

Or maybe is it because of a deep innate human instinct to better understand my



relationship to the forces and people around me and their relationship to me. “Show me my house.”

Father David Hollenbach, of Boston College, writes that “the biblical understanding of freedom, portrayed in the account of the Exodus, is not simply freedom from constraint, but freedom for participation in the shared life of people...”

Thomas Aquinas wrote that “any seeker of a higher truth, or of God, must eventually and inevitably return to the idea of community.” In the words of Dr. King, the idea that “we are bound together in a web of mutuality,...”

The idea that we progress, not on the weakness, but on the strength of our neighbors. The idea that one person can make a difference and each of us must try.

If politics is the geography of ideas, then perhaps, through our deeds and relationships as individuals, we must become the dynamic coordinates of a new geography – a newer deeper understanding of our actions in time, in space, in place, in community, and in relationship to one another in the march of progress we have the freedom to choose and to share,...

It is all about the relationship: our relationship to one another, our relationship to a higher truth — a truth that builds trust and community; a truth that proclaims the dignity of every individual; a truth that affirms our own responsibility to advance the common good; a truth that affirms that sense in our soul that there is a unity to spirit and matter, and that what we do our own lifetimes does matter.

“Show me my house.”

Thanks.



Tags: [esri](#), [executive](#), [geographic](#), [GIS](#), [leadership](#), [mapping](#), [maps](#), [seminar](#), [spacial analysis](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Center for American Progress: Fiscal Responsibility](#)  
[Navy Commissioning of USS Sterett](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Navy Commissioning of USS Sterett

August 9th, 2008

Thank you very, very much. It is an honor to be here on this tremendous day with all of you.

I want to thank Commander Blankenship, Senator Mikulski, Former Congresswoman Bentley, Secretary Winter, Secretary Stackley, Your Excellency Archbishop O'Brien, and Mrs. Bernson.

I also want to recognize the dedicated men and women of the United States Navy who are here today, especially the crew of the USS Sterett. To our families who are here, thank you for your love and your support as you have kept our servicemen and servicewomen women strong.

And to everyone who worked to bring this commissioning to the Port of Baltimore and the State of Maryland, I thank you.

To my fellow citizens who are here today, whose ingenuity, whose innovation, whose sweat and hard work and hard-earned dollars have built this amazing ship, I thank you. And on behalf of the people of our State, I welcome you.

This is an historic moment for our Port and for our State. We're coming together today – people from all over Maryland and across the nation – to take part in a ceremony that continues the Navy's tradition of excellence and service.

Our State shares a long and proud history with the Navy. Combining forces both on the ground at Fort McHenry and at sea along our vulnerable coastline, we came together to defend our country's independence in 1812, here at the birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner.

And perhaps the most well known link that we have is the United States Naval Academy, which has stood in our capital city of Annapolis since 1845. And I understand some of our crew members here are recent graduates of that tremendous institution.

Our roots go even further. Over 2 centuries ago, Andrew Sterett, the son of a shipping merchant, was born in the City of Baltimore. After quickly rising through the ranks to become a lieutenant, he went on to command another Baltimore native – the USS Constellation, which was built in our harbor and became part of the Navy's first fleet.

[Releases](#)

So today, this ship that bears a hero's name will begin its watch, its crew remaining "forever dauntless" in the face of anything that would threaten our nation. One of the most powerful warships ever built, this day is a terrific beginning to the USS Sterett's future.

Admiral Arleigh Burke reminded us that "the instruments of warfare are not solely for waging war. Far more importantly, they are the means for controlling peace."

So to Commander Echerle and all of the crewmembers of the USS Sterett, thank you for answering the call to defend peace in our nation. We have no greater strength as a people than our men and women who give of themselves to protect the freedoms we hold dear, and we are honored and humbled by your courage and your willingness to serve.

In conclusion, I would like to present USS Sterett Commanding Officer Brian Eckerle a gift from the people of Maryland.



0



0



Tags: [commissioning](#), [navy](#), [port](#), [USS Sterett](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [ESRI Executive Leadership Seminar](#)

[Taking Control Of Our Energy Future: Maryland Association of Counties](#)

[Keynote Address](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Taking Control Of Our Energy Future: Maryland Association of Counties Keynote Address

August 16th, 2008

## Acknowledgements

Thank you very much. It is good to be with all of you again in Ocean City. On behalf of everyone in the O'Malley-Brown Administration, I thank you so very much for your hard work, your partnership, and your support for the important and shared work of advancing the common good of the people of Maryland.

I want to say a word of thanks and congratulations to David Bliden who is moving on after 17 proud years at the helm of MACO. David is the longest serving Executive Director in this organization's history, and he's left a positive mark not only on MACO but really on the future of our State.

I know this has been a bittersweet year for all of us who are part of this extended MACO family. We had to say a very sad goodbye to Becky Black, who passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. Becky was such an important part of MACO and she cared deeply about the people of our State.

We were also deeply saddened by the loss of Marilyn Praisner, who during her years on the Montgomery County Council had become somewhat of a MACO Icon. Marilyn, of course, served as MACO President in 2003, a position she served with honor and vigor – always leading from the front, always pushing us to do better.

## Introduction: Securing Our Energy Future

During this past year, we have been able to make some real and steady progress on those goals that unite us, those goals that we share: to strengthen and grow our middle class and our family-owned businesses and family farms; to improve public safety and public education in every part of our State; and to expand opportunity; the opportunity to learn, the opportunity to earn, the opportunity to enjoy the health of the people that we love as well as the health of this environment that we love to more people rather than fewer.

That's our mission statement. And we've been making solid progress towards all those goals:

## Releases

- Creating the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund, which will ramp up to \$50 million this year.
- Using every dollar of Program Open Space for open space.
- Quadrupling the amount of money that we invest in the cover crop program.
- Passing the most sweeping foreclosure prevention legislation of any State in the nation. Let's not forget having done away with the ground rents. Let's also not forget that we became the first State to pass the Living Wage Act, the very first one in the country.
- Providing record funding this year for investments in public education. We've increased by 350 percent — even in tough times — what we invest in school construction and school renovation.
- Yes, to strengthen and grow the ranks of our middle class. Yes, to improve public safety and public education. Yes, to expand opportunity to more people.

But today I wanted to talk to you about an admittedly complex issue which stands directly in the path of our progress as a State, our progress as a nation, and really our progress as a civilized people who share this increased problem on this globe.

I want to talk with you about our energy future, particularly I want to talk to you about our energy future as it relates to electricity supply and demand here in Maryland. And I want to talk with you, also, about the things that we must do together in order to secure a more affordable and a more renewable energy future for our State.

Free markets alone will not secure that future. If we want a more secure, more renewable, and more affordable energy future, then there are things that we must do together to bring about that stronger future that we prefer.

### **Fighting Every Battle On The Public's Behalf**

You know, the professional ice hockey great, Wayne Gretzky, once declared, "You miss one hundred percent of the shots that you don't take." Well, for four years the consumers of Maryland did not have a Public Service Commission or an Administration that was willing to take the shots that needed to be taken for them. And as a result, energy company profits trumped the public interest for four critical years.

Those years are gone, they're behind us and they are over. And while we have not been able to undo all the damage of four years of inaction, for the last 17 months of the O'Malley-Brown administration we have been taking every shot that we can on behalf of the consumers of Maryland and businesses.

Some of these battles we have lost and some of these battles we have won, but every day we fight, and we fight for the public interest of the people of our State. And that is what we are going to continue to do, sparing no expense, retaining any expert, hiring whatever legal resources the public's case requires, and recruiting our neighbors in other States whenever possible in order to stand up for the public interest, especially in these challenging times, in our fight for a more affordable and

secure energy future.

So far we have been able to recover \$2 billion dollars for consumers, which was the largest settlement of its kind in U.S. history.

So far, we have also won a major victory with federal regulators, ending unfair practices that added \$85 million a year in costs to our energy bills.

So far we have successfully fought to strike down rules that were allowing generators to charge above market prices.

In just 17 months, we've been able to successfully assemble and lead a coalition of four States, consumer advocates, industrial users, municipal power companies and co-ops in a \$12 billion complaint with federal regulators against overcharges that the citizens of our State and others, for generation incentives that are only serving to juice the profits of generation holding companies and not really incentivizing new generation.

But we are by no means out of the woods. The road ahead is going to be far more challenging. It's going to be far more challenging even than that jolt we suffered when we moved from regulated markets to deregulated markets without a clutch and without a functional Public Service Commission.

## **Our Challenges: What We've Learned**

The first step in this long battle was, of course, taking control and restoring the professionalism of our Public Service Commission. Restoring its professionalism, its competence, and its ability to defend the public interest in matters relating to energy regulation.

With new and professional leadership at the Public Service Commission and at the Maryland Energy Administration, we've been able to learn — in some cases for the first time — the true scope of the challenges that we face. And as a result, today we have a clearer understanding of the very difficult challenges that lay ahead of us:

We learned the laissez-faire, "hands-off," "let the markets work," "we're-pro-business-what-do-you-expect" approach that was pushed by the energy lobby, the old Public Service Commission, and the former administration failed us in Maryland. It failed us badly, even as it allowed for record profits for big energy companies.

We also learned that no new power plants of any size have been built in our State for decades. Even as our economy grew, even as we added new homes, new schools, new businesses and new growth, the market didn't respond as many had promised and all of us had hoped.

We learned that our demand for energy is greatly outpacing our supply. We learned that we are now importing nearly one third of our electricity because we don't have the local generating capacity to meet our needs, and we rely increasingly on major transmission lines from the west to keep the lights on in Maryland.

We learned that we now face the prospect of brown-outs and rolling black-outs by 2011, as the existing transmission lines become overloaded on hot summer days.

We learned that foolish pricing policies for buying electricity pursued under the former do-nothing PSC — like allowing 100 percent of BGE's electricity needs to be purchased at a time when the market was its very highest — after hurricanes Katrina and Rita — only made existing market conditions worse for consumers

And we learned that even in the best circumstances, the wholesale market the utilities use to purchase their electricity isn't set up with the best interests of consumers in mind. Instead, it is set up for the benefits of big energy generating holding and trading companies.

## **Our Vision: "To Find It Or Build It"**

So what do we do about all this? Well, as we seek to address these challenges and take control of our energy future, there are two hard realities that I think we need to acknowledge in order to be able to move forward. In fact, we need to accept them if we're going to be able to forge the consensus necessary to move forward.

First, deregulation alone, that is, free market competition under the current FERC rules, has failed us. And there is no evidence that markets alone will respond quickly enough to avert the greater crisis on the horizon of brown-outs and black-outs. Nor will free market competition by itself avert the economic and social displacement that will come about with the sky-rocketing financial and environmental cost of fossil fuels — which brings me to the second really difficult reality that we need to acknowledge.

Our energy future is closely and inextricably linked to rapidly rising global market demand.

What do I mean by that? In the 21st century's global economy, we are increasingly finding ourselves competing with rising economies like China and India for global commodities, the things that power the turbines that make the electricity generate. And the hard reality is that those commodities — oil, natural gas and coal — there's an increase and will continue to be an increasing demand for those things.

The hard reality is that 60 percent of our electricity in Maryland is generated by the burning of coal. In China alone, get this, they are on pace to build one new coal-fired plant each week. Each week! There's a reason why exports are up at the Port of Baltimore.

You know, a lot of that is commodities from West Virginia that are leaving our port. The price of coal — whether it's shoveled into a Maryland power plant or leaving the port of Baltimore in a ship bound for Asia — has risen by over 50 percent compared to this same time last year. Just as global market forces brought oil up to \$140 per barrel and gasoline to \$4 per gallon, worldwide demand for coal is driving up all of our electric bills, at home and, of course, all over the world as well.

And against these new realities come our shared imperatives. In the short term, our mission must be to combat unfairly tilted markets and profiteering on energy prices, while committing ourselves to greater conservation in order to avoid the economic and social disruption of rolling brown-outs and black-outs.

And in the long-term, our mission is to accelerate a better mix of new power generation, technology, and renewable resources to take us through the next

several decades.

To make progress in the face of this rising challenge, let me suggest at least six ways that we might move forward together, and this list is by no means exclusive:

**Number one.** We want to partner with you at the metropolitan, at the county, and at the municipal level to develop smaller scale “peaking plants” that can actually feed into the grid for those 20, 25, 30 days out of the year when the demand for electricity is at its highest, which contributes to the overall price that has to get baked into all of our rates throughout the year. We want to work with you and partner with you to develop smaller scale peaking plants.

We’ll propose new legislation next session to make financial and technical resources available through the bonding authority of the Maryland Environmental Services Agency in order to bring new plants online as soon as possible.

Any new generation in our State defends all consumers, really, against the threat of power disruption. And I know that none of us are really expecting any municipality or county to take on the construction of Calvert Cliffs III on their own, but smaller scale, on-site generation and behind-the-meter generators can be cost-effective and considerably less complicated to build

We’re already partnering with Frederick County Commissioners on potential partnership involving the town of Thurmont. We also have a long-established model in the town of Easton of how smaller, municipally-owned generation can actually save significant energy costs for municipal consumers while meeting the overall demand for generation on the grid.

I also firmly believe that organizations like the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, which already figured out ways to pool contracts, can be a tremendous tool for us in coordinating the potential for new generating capacity, over which the public has greater control.

**Number two.** We believe that we can make our State *the* national leader in renewable energy.

And we plan to move forward toward making our State one of the very first in the nation to use its market power to jumpstart large-scale, commercial renewable energy projects.

Earlier this week, we formally offered to purchase hundreds of megawatts of our State government’s electricity from renewable energy sources. And by offering long-term contracts for clean, renewable power, we can accelerate the arrival of more commercial-scale projects like Delaware’s off-shore wind farm or proposals for an Eastern Shore power plant that’s powered by poultry litter.

We’ve also been able to reach an agreement on an innovative partnership with Ike Leggett and Montgomery County, the University of Maryland and the City of Baltimore to pool our combined purchasing power to attract new commercial development of renewable energy to our State. We will also be willing to agree to other energy purchases in exchange for the development of a renewable plant or plants.

We must also find ways to help our families and businesses install more green



energy systems in their homes. The demand for this is so great, and so popular was our program that encouraged families to install geothermal systems or solar, that we totally wiped out the funding in the first month. We have to find other ways that we can help to move this along.

**Number three.** We must continue to find ways to accelerate the development of so-called Smart Meters and Smart Pricing to consumers in order to reduce consumption and, therefore, reduce the rate of demand growth. Throughout the day energy prices actually fluctuate based on electricity usage. And with Smart Pricing, consumers are charged less for electricity during non-peak times. Smart Meters also give us all the power to lower our electric bills by choosing to run the dishwasher or the clothes dryer during off-peak hours.

We know from pilot programs that have been done in other States and here, that consumers can save about 15 percent and help us achieve our conservation goals which also leads to a lower bill.

**Number four.** Some of our valued federal agencies in Maryland already maintain on-site generation that can also come to the aid of our entire State by working as peaking units. More should be encouraged to do so in partnership with State and local governments.

And we know that we have solid partners in our congressional delegation who took the time to be with all of us today, once from county government, always from county government — but in the halls in Washington and places like NSA and the other federal installations in our State, could be a tremendous partner with State and local governments in taking control of our energy future.

We'll pursue more partnerships with federal facilities and other large institutions to move from the notion of back-up emergency generators to a new notion of a fleet that is increasingly controlled by the public's interest and that can relieve the stress on our grid.

**Number five.** We will provide assistance to our lower income neighbors who are struggling to afford energy prices during these difficult economic times. We have designated, as you know, millions of dollars from our Strategic Energy Investment Fund to help increase our current investments in energy assistance for lower income families. Conservation and conservation technologies, I believe, need to become a much bigger component of that assistance. None of our neighbors should have to face a winter without heat or a sweltering summer's day without some relief.

**And number six.** This week, the Public Service Commission issued an order which represents the first step toward directing utilities to either find or build new generation to address any future supply shortfalls that the market is not reasonably expected to deliver in time for us to keep the lights on in 2011, 2012, and the years that follow.

We cannot stand idly by and wait for market forces or the electricity good fairy to come in and solve this problem for us. All of the experts are telling us that demand is outpacing supply and we know that there's no new generation coming online now. We have to do something about this now or the rolling brown-outs and black-outs will happen. We already saw what happened when we tried to whistle a happy song by

a 70 percent rate hike. If we don't act, these brown-outs and black-outs are going to happen.

## **Why Not Just Re-Regulate?**

So given the bitter experience of the prior four years, I know that there are many of you who have asked — and you've heard this question asked of you by your neighbors — why can't we just simply pass a law and re-regulate? Why can't we simply pass a law and go back to re-regulation?

In fact, there have been proposals in both houses of the State legislature which purported to do just that. The problem is that no one is willing to raise the \$20 billion in new revenues, in new taxes, that would be required — if it were even Constitutional — so that we can buy back the power plants from the holding companies and put them into a regulated market. Nor is there any political stomach for raising \$10 billion in new taxes to put the State squarely in the business of power generation.

Now I know how much all of us wish — I know I do — that there were a simple, cost-free solution to this complex problem, but our shared reality is not simple and it is not cost-free. In fact, as the Senate came to realize in short order in the last session, passing a law that requires that all new generation in our State be owned by a regulated utility actually has the unintended practical market consequence of foreclosing any new generation in Maryland — a result that would most certainly lead to even greater price spikes than the ones that we've already suffered as demand grows without new supply.

With that said, if we're willing to reach a consensus that re-regulation can mean something other than taking back power plants, there are solid potential options and we've asked the Public Service Commission to investigate and offer a report on several of them.

Some of those possibilities might be requiring all future generation to be owned by in-state utilities. But before we would make such a move let's be very clear in understanding that the cost of constructing new regulated generation will be passed onto all consumers in their bills, just as surely as the cost of the fuel used to generate those turbines.

Another option might be developing new plants that are financed by utilities, although not owned by them outright. But again, let's make sure that we understand the degree by which rate-payer's bills will go up in order to indirectly finance new regulated generation.

We might also consider public-private partnerships in which the State itself takes a long-term ownership interest in a large commercial scale project, with a significant up-front investment.

## **Conclusion: The Politics of Posterity**

Before I leave you today, I want to make an important admission and it is this... as much as I've thought about this problem and as much as I've been able to sit down with very smart, professional people who study this problem day in and day out, and as much as I've read about this problem and its imagined solutions, I really don't

know how this one turns out. I wish I could tell you that I do.

The complexity of our current challenge demands that we pursue a number of different paths which, we hope and we pray, will converge on that horizon of possibilities with other paths being pursued in science, in technology, in chemistry, and in physics — here and around the world. You see, we act, we create, we innovate, we lead — not because others will not, but rather, because of our faith that others must and will.

Take heart in the important progress we've made in just 17 months towards a more secure, stable and sustainable and renewable energy future:

Working together, we led the charge to hold the first auction of greenhouse gas emission credits in the nation through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. And when we participate in the first-in-the-nation auction next month, we will be able to use those revenues to advance that common good of controlling our energy future.

Working together, we set up some of the most ambitious goals in our nation for lowering consumption by 15 percent in 2015. A goal that now Senator Obama is advancing on the national level, we did that here in Maryland first.

Working together, we created the Climate Change Commission, we signed the Clean Cars Act, we created tax incentives to help families bring greener energy systems into their homes.

Working together, we created new green building standards for our schools and invested in green technology for all our schools. We have begun the conversion of our vehicle and mass transit fleets to renewable, cleaner fuels.

And working together, we passed legislation that will move our energy portfolio towards 20 percent renewables in little over a decade.

We know that taking control of our future is not going to be easy. There are tremendous profits being made by a small number of countries and a small number of corporations for every last day they can wring out of this new status quo of rising energy costs and rising global demand for fossil fuels.

But this new status quo, my friends, is not sustainable — not sustainable for working families, not for the cause of growing the ranks of our middle class, not for the cause of our State or our country's security, not for the cause of expanding opportunities of health and longevity to more people — people like our children and our children's children.

In the face of this challenge, I need your help. I need you to help us as a people reject the politics of greed and the politics of ease. To reject the politics of stupid simplicity and the politics of self-destruction by self-consumption.

In Maryland, it has been our history to refuse to "be the slaves of circumstance, but rather to make our own event." In Maryland, we choose to practice the politics of posterity. The politics which embrace the duty we have, not only to our neighbors, but to the next generation.

The politics of posterity. The politics which have guided us together to nearly close the \$1.7 billion structural deficit, to make record investments in education, to

expand healthcare to 100,000 of our neighbors, to close the backlog of 24,000 unanalyzed DNA cases so that we can become not only one of the wealthier States in the nation, but also the safest.

As we look toward that stronger future that we all prefer, our tomorrows will indeed be better than our today, but only if we work to make it so. And only if we work together.

Thank you.



Tags: [keynote](#), [maco](#), [maryland association of counties](#), [ocean city](#), [worchester county](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Navy Commissioning of USS Sterett](#)  
[Anacostia River Executive Leadership Council Announcement](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Anacostia River Executive Leadership Council Announcement

August 17th, 2008

## Introduction

Thank you all very much.

For those of you that were on the Anacostia, I don't know if you're like me, I've probably been *over* the Anacostia millions of times, but now I can say I've been *on* the Anacostia and it's really an enjoyable little trip.

I want to thank Jim Connelly with the Anacostia Watershed Society for our boat tour. We saw all sorts of wildlife – egrets, a couple of Great Blue Heron, a couple of osprey, a kingfisher, and a number of turtles. So the Anacostia River, despite what we've done to the land all around her, is still alive and kicking and calling us to the cause of her continued improvement.

It's been a wonderful day we've had here in gorgeous Prince George's County, especially the Port Towns, who got their genesis from this river. It's been a highway of commerce to the whole world, and certainly was the thing that drew these communities to one another.

## Leadership Council Announcement

In many cities, waterfronts became a defunct part of their past, and over the last 30 years people are realizing what Jim Rouse meant when he said that 'water is magic.' These rivers, while they might not be able to support shipping containers coming in from China, certainly deserve our respect and our appreciation, and they certainly deserve reincarnation as places of recreation and places where kids can get in touch with the deeper truths of their souls and find a little respite from what is too often very hard concrete, and too often violence in their neighborhoods. So this is wonderful greenway.

We've had a great day in our capital, declaring the Port Towns our capital city for today. We're also rounding out our day here with a little announcement. Together with the District of Columbia, we created back in 2006 by Executive Order a Leadership Council of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership. It was created in writing, but it never, ever met, and it never made progress. So we decided that we should meet, and this thing should function, and we should map out some

[Releases](#)

plans and have an agenda for the things that we can do.

Usually, when we meet at BayStat we look at a watershed that stretches all the way to upstate New York. With the Anacostia, it's only about 170 square miles. If we can do it here, we can do it anywhere. Very soon we'll have a partnership from our federal government as well. So I want to thank Mayor Fenty for his interest in this, and also his willingness to serve as the first Chair of the Leadership Council. He has representatives here with us and we're going to do everything that we can to clean up the Anacostia.

### Steady Progress for our Rivers and Watersheds

Working together, we've already made some progress. For some of you that weren't on board the boat, our tour guide pointed out where some 70 acres of wetlands restoration had taken place. There once was an illegal dump that had refrigerators and tires and all sorts of things in it that were all taken out with the help of the Army Corp, and we went in and invested about \$7 million to restore some 70 acres of those wetlands that serve as the kidneys that cleanse the waters as they filter from the runoff in the developments into this river.

So working together, we're making some real progress. We created the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund to finance restoration efforts. We've updated our critical areas legislation. We're doing some good stuff on the Maryland Aquatic Reef Initiative, and we're making record investments in cover crops in our State. We've tripled the amount that we've put into cover crops to help prevent agricultural runoff. We recently upgraded our regulations in terms of animal farms, we've passed some landmark Clean Cars legislation, and we've joined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

### Conclusion

We're doing a number of good things and we can't do any of these things fast enough. This region of ours, this Chesapeake crescent, is going to grow. The question is: can we grow in a green, smart, and sustainable way? We're going to grow, and we're probably way behind in terms of the investments we've made in our infrastructure, in order to grow in green, smart, and sustainable ways; but we can catch up, and this Council is an important part of that.

Thank you.



Tags: [anacostia](#), [council](#), [executive](#), [leadership](#), [river](#), [sgg](#), [smart green & growing](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Taking Control Of Our Energy Future: Maryland Association of Counties Keynote Address](#)  
[Maryland Olympians Homecoming Announcement](#) »



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Maryland Olympians Homecoming Announcement

September 9th, 2008

Thank you all for coming. Isn't this a great day?

I'd like to say a special word of thanks to Debbie Phelps for helping make today possible – for sharing your wonderful son with Maryland and with the world, and also for helping us put together what's truly going to be an exciting event.

I'd also like to thank John Morton who will be co-chairing our celebration and helping us raise \$300,000 in private funds to make this event a reality.

And of course, County Executive Jim Smith. Jim, we knew that surgery could never hold you back, and I think I speak on behalf of our entire State when I say that we are all so happy and so relieved to see you healthy and happy and back at it once again. Jim was named America's best County Executive by his peers and he's been serving all of our One Maryland with such great passion and dedication.

For three August weeks, Marylanders of all ages, from all ethnicities, from all walks of life, gathered around their TVs and radios – sometimes waking up well before "dawn's early light" and staying up well past "twilight's last gleaming" to cheer on our American Olympic heroes – including our greatest American Olympian, Michael Phelps.

Played proudly after each of their many victories was the greatest symbol of our American Olympic glory, the Star Spangled Banner, our national anthem.

So we thought "what better a place to honor our Maryland Olympic heroes than the birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner, Fort McHenry?"

Today we're asking Marylanders to mark their calendars and prepare for a very, very exciting Olympic celebration on October 4 featuring fireworks, surprises and Maryland Olympians, including the pride of Towson, Michael Phelps.

Eight different times we heard our national anthem played proudly as Michael Phelps swam his way into Olympic history. And along the way, he not only made us proud, he brought us together as Marylanders and as Americans – embodying not only the heart of the champion but the spirit of an Olympian.

I'll never forget the night in Ocean City when the Maryland Association of Counties

[Releases](#)

was meeting – Mayor Dixon was holding a reception that night and many of us were gathered around the television sets to watch Michael Phelps. There was a magical energy as Marylanders young and old, black and white, male and female were on the edge of their seats, praying, cheering, and feeling so proud of our State and of our country.

And for three weeks, anywhere you went in Maryland the scene was similar. Our families, our friends, our neighbors gathered in living rooms and bar rooms with a unity of focus on our favorite son. And every time they introduced him as Maryland's own, all of us swelled with pride and joy.

So, once more we're asking our Olympic heroes to help bring us together and recapture some of that Olympic glory – along with that unity which is what the Olympic Games have always been all about.

You know, in just a few days we'll be marking the anniversary of the War of 1812, for which Ft. McHenry played such an important role in saving our union, when America's very existence was tested and pushed to the brink.

Instead of folding to the oppressive force of tyranny, Marylanders came together as a people to stand up to the tremendous challenges we faced – and our resiliency, our courage and our resolve carried us through. That day we reminded the world that, even when faced with great adversity, Marylanders lead the way. Even when faced with the most daunting odds, Marylanders lead the way.

Fort McHenry stands as a reminder of those words penned during that battle by Maryland native Francis Scott Key... and as a reminder of our enduring spirit.... That spirit is echoed in our State and our strength as a people today. And it's echoed in our Olympic champions that we celebrate, who've stepped up to lead the way once again.

We look forward to celebrating this spirit with all of you on October 4 and we encourage Marylanders to check the website [Baltimore.org](http://Baltimore.org) for more details.



0



0



Tags: [Homecoming](#), [olympians](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Anacostia River Executive Leadership Council Announcement Remarks at the Baltimore Stat Summit](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901





THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Remarks at the Baltimore Stat Summit

September 10th, 2008

Thank you all very much for allowing me to be with you this afternoon. Thank you for taking time out of your schedule to learn about CitiStat. And I want to thank Mayor Sheila Dixon for all that she's done to continue that new tradition that we started in our City of measuring performance, declaring goals and making progress, not annually, but daily and weekly in the face of some pretty daunting challenges.

We're here today I think as true believers in that sort of bold approach. And also in its timeless importance. It's no exaggeration that what you are doing every single day is revolutionizing the way the Government works, not only in our City, not only in our State, but really across the country.

I know that you had Mayor Curtatone here earlier today from Somerville, Massachusetts. If you plug in the word CitiStat into a Google search engine, you'll see the word CitiStat popping up all across the country, in big cities and small cities. And I think that's probably the best testament to any good idea,...the fact that other people want to adopt it and want to use it. That's certainly what we did at its inception, borrowing and adapting that data from ComStat.

Back when I had the honor of serving as Mayor of the City of Baltimore, we brought the ComStat tenets and made them into CitiStat and now we're taking the CitiStat tenets and they are, in essence, StateStat. And we're attempting to do the same sort of thing – that is, make progress towards declaring goals in our State Government.

I wanted to talk with you a little bit today about what is possible when we're unafraid of setting goals and unafraid of openly measuring performance of our public institutions and efforts. Unafraid of what Robert Kennedy called, "the rational application of human effort to human problems."

And I don't use the word unafraid as hyperbole. I mean, many of you who are CitiStat veterans saw mayors from other cities that maybe had six or seven years of experience under their belt, they walked in the CitiStat room, saw what we were doing by declaring goals, measuring performance openly and transparently, and they turned to their able staff and said, "let's get the hell out of here and not tell anybody we saw this."

And you can see the look. You already know, the newer ones tend to be able to

## Releases

embrace it — although we do have some courageous people that don't mind embracing it, even with one whole term under their belt.

I want to talk to you most of all today about that essential question that underlies everything we try to accomplish together in the community or through that tool of community known as government. The one question that comes up every time we show off either our CitiStat tool or our StateStat tool, the question that comes up without fail whenever we show our neighbors the charts and the graphs and the photographs and the maps, regardless of whether a neighborhood is black or white or rich or poor, someone within the first five to ten minutes will always raise their hand and say, "Can you show me my house?"

### Setting Goals

In public life, everything we do stems from shared beliefs and shared goals that flow from them as a community. And everything we approach in government begins, I think, with some timeless human questions — namely, "What are you trying to accomplish?" "Where are we going?" "How will we know whether or not we are getting there?"

A great historian, Arnold Toynbee once wrote that, "man progresses in response to adversity." These are the questions that provoke that response, that progress in response to adversity. And they are age-old questions, questions I'm sure the Israelites asked of Moses many a time in the course of 40 years, "Where are we going? And, how do we know when we're getting there?"

And these are the questions that we found ourselves asking eight years ago when the roots of CitiStat took shape, when an epidemic of crime and the result of it, blight and population loss and decay, left those of us in Baltimore with our backs up against the wall.

I'd like to tell you that we started doing this in order to earn an award from the Kennedy School, but we didn't. We did this in order to survive, in order to make progress. In order so that all of our neighbors might join us in the cause of progress, in order that we might be able to give the children of Baltimore City a better future in this place where the Star Spangled Banner was first raised. We didn't want it to be the first place where it would come down early.

I'm sure that many of you remember those days well. When we were handed the keys to a 16,000 person organization,... a \$2 billion a year public corporation known as the Baltimore City Government. And with it we were handed some big challenges: one of the highest violent crime rates, highest addiction rates, underperforming schools, underperforming and unresponsive City services, littered streets and alleys, thousands of vacant buildings — and, worse, a lot of vacant hearts. Three decades of the biggest population loss of any major city in America. And very, very little hope.

Well, it's a different future now, isn't it? As we sit in this new hotel where there are 300 to 400 City residents employed here. And all you have to do is drive through the City to see how much better she's doing. The City's getting cleaner, the City's getting safer.

When I was elected, our citizens voted for change and they knew that our City's survival depended on that change coming about as quickly as possible.

Show me my house.

In his own time, President Roosevelt talked about the four fundamental freedoms, which, you know, are kind of a national articulation in an international context of our goals as a national community. Freedom of speech and expression everywhere in the world. Freedom of every person to worship God in his or her own way everywhere in the world. Freedom from want everywhere in the world. And the fourth freedom is the freedom from fear anywhere in the world.

Our goals were slightly less lofty, but shared that basic humanity and yearning for freedom for the City of Baltimore. And they were: to make Baltimore a safer, cleaner, healthier place. To make Baltimore City a better place for kids to grow up, freedom from fear and want. To make our City a better place for businesses to invest and to grow.

And we knew if we were to accomplish those few things, people would take it the rest of the way.

The goals that we have as a State are these: To strengthen and grow the ranks of our upwardly mobile middle class and our family owned businesses and family farms. To improve public safety and public education in every part of our State. And to expand opportunity — opportunities to learn, to earn, to enjoy the health of the people we love as well as the environment we love to more people rather than fewer, and to future generations.

Show me my house.

## **Measuring Performance, Relentless Follow-Up, And Rapid Deployment of Resources**

As we pursue these goals together, we are constantly measuring performance, we are relentlessly following up and we are rapidly deploying our resources. Most of us in public life, you know, are very good at measuring inputs, we're good at budgets, how much things are going to cost. We do not as easily let people know what the outputs are and whether we're producing those outputs more effectively, more efficiently, or bringing about a better result.

We often ask, for example, "what's our level of funding for the Department of Environment this year?" But less often do we ask how much nitrogen are we actually intercepting and keeping out of our streams before they get to the Bay? And "are we doing it better this season than we did in the same season last year?"

When we chose to borrow this idea from the NYPD, we had found at the time that there was very, very little in City government that was being measured in a timely, accurate or real-time manner. And in those places where the information actually was being collected in a timely and accurate real-time manner, it never, ever made it up to the top — unless you asked for it repeatedly.

And when it came to the top, it came in different forms. Not only in charts of different computer programs, it often came in different forms like the back of napkins,

the back of notebooks, the carbon papers that they used to have — you know, that you would put into the typewriter. So we standardized all of that and made the executive decision that we shared information all along the same railroad track. It's impossible to steer a ship if you don't have a compass or controls.

And that timely, accurate flow of information, not only up and down the chain of command, but across the different and in multiple almost countless endeavors of City government. And the ability then to share that also with the general public, the people we ultimately work for and have to aspire with hope from jobs well done — you know, that circuit was created by insisting as an executive at the center that we need to share information in the common, easy way.

And you know what? If your department doesn't know how to do it, you got to get trained to do it. I know your brother-in-law made your specialized housing authority software. We're not using it anymore. We want to collect it with this.

Now, data collection and mapping — you know, if you were to do that without action, of course, it's pointless. It might be a fun IT exercise, but what's the point, you know? You've got to get to the action behind it. It's that tendency of some of us in government to have an on switch and an off switch, but rarely do we have the steering wheel and the compass and the controls that allow us to be more fluid.

## Getting Results

So we've had a lot of success in Baltimore, thanks primarily to the good people we serve. Thanks secondarily to the people who serve them, all the employees in our City government who really rose to the challenge.

Jacke Maple insisted that everything could be “stat'ed” and everything that could be measured. And we used to play this game where I would throw things at him and then he'd reel back and rattle off 14 performance measures for whether or not we're reaching at-risk children.

But another thing that Jack used to say was that the things that get measured are the things that get done and only the things that get measured are the things that get done.

We accomplished a lot of good things. We were able to reduce violent crime by 40 percent to its lowest levels of four decades by the time we left and Mayor Dixon's very able administration took over.

Together we were able to back up — when William Donald Schaefer accused us having absolutely no vision in this O'Malley administration — we answered with our 48 hour pothole guarantee. And by golly, we hit it 98 percent of the time.

And we all then did something very revolutionary and we actually sent thank you notes from the Mayor to the men and women on the crews that hit the 48 hour pothole guarantee. This was Jack's other truism. He said in any organization, 10 percent of the people are real achievers, even when the chips are down the achievers are going to go out there and run through walls for you and really succeed. Ten percent are natural slackers, God bless their hearts. And even when things aren't going well, and the City's life is threatened, they'll be figuring out ways to slack.

And then 80 percent of us – 80 percent of us could really go either way, depending on whether the executive power recognizes it or not. And so that's why we sent thank you notes. That's why we did the ballgame tickets, that's why we did the other things.

And in that slight tilt of that 80 percent, from the slackers to the achievers, is record leading progress. Record leading progress and a better future for a city that had its back up against the wall.

Our population has now grown in the City of Baltimore. And thanks to Michael Phelps, also a performance measurement tool, we now have the best walking, talking swimming advertisement for great City living, especially for young people, that we've ever had.

Together we reduced the number of children exposed to high levels of lead by 65 percent. Not a small thing when you consider how many of our children were in substandard housing and the ingestion of that lead — do you think it's coincidental that our kids are achieving at the highest levels they ever have in our elementary schools and we've been able to cut by 65 percent that lead? Is full day kindergarten a big part of that? Yes, probably a bigger part of it. But if you're the mom of the kid, whose potential isn't capped by the lead, it's a very, very significant part of that.

Together we identified and reclaimed more than 5,900 vacant homes and buildings, took title to them, cleaned them, boarded them, sometimes bricked them. We found once they were bricked, it was harder to pull the boards off. But we now have title to 5,900 homes so we can bundle them and actually get them to – hopefully away from that dead capital and redevelop them.

Together we got to the point where trash-filled alleys which once took two months to clean were getting cleaned up in less than three weeks.

I think the boarding thing was one of the most phenomenal improvements. The cleaning and boarding of a house went from eight months or nine months and now we're at 14 days. Roughly. That's the guarantee that we're able to give people over the phone. Not a small thing if you're living next to that house.

We've been working to implement StateStat now at the State level and also BayStat at the State level. We're already making some important progress in a relatively short period of time. Because of the performance measurement we were able, with some confidence to close the horrible House of Corrections. One of the worst, most dilapidated deficient prisons that any civilized people would ever maintain. And fortunately, we maintain it no longer. Closed it in 50 days and that's an annualized savings of \$10 million a year.

We've been able to eliminate \$20 million in overtime costs, save taxpayers \$20 million by increasing Medicaid fraud recoveries.

We've been able to eliminate a backlog of 24,000 unanalyzed DNA samples. You know, people hear a lot about the huge structural deficit in our State that was left by our predecessor. We were left a deficit also of 24,000 DNA samples that should have been analyzed and never were. That's 24,000 pieces of evidence. And if you don't have those to match the crime scene evidence there's no chance of getting a hit or clearing those crimes. We have now had more hits — that is matching of the

sample with a suspected perpetrator — in 18 months than we had in the prior eight years.

Imagine the families that have been spared the tragedy of a murder or a homicide, a rape or some other crime because we're able to do job one again. And that's only going to improve with time.

And working together, we've also been able to identify and fix more than 100 problems in our juvenile detention facilities. Talk about — you know, the Super Fund site. We had so many problems in our juvenile justice department. We're fixing them. It's like a giant — what do you call it, a giant punch list, but it's on really important life and death stuff. And so we're now experiencing I think Statewide a 37 percent reduction in juvenile homicides, which is also the biggest homicide reduction we've had year to date.

## Conclusion

Show me my house.

During my days as Mayor of Baltimore, I had occasion to often attend services at Bethel AME Church. I think given our unique demography and my ethnic make-up, I probably have been to more Baptist and AME services than any Irish Catholic politician today. And at Frank Reid's church, Frank — and some of you know Frank — he'll say, "If it's not about the relationship," and the congregation will call back, "it's not about anything."

If it's not about the relationship, it's not about anything.

I think at the end of the day, probably the most important thing about CitiStat, the most important thing about performance measure, the most important thing about the progress we make with one another and through our government — the most important thing is the relationship.

The relationship between ourselves and others, between ourselves and time, between ourselves and place, between ourselves and this space we share with others. The relationship maybe between ourselves and God.

Why do teenagers and young people flock to FaceBook and to My Space? It's not for the solitude, it's for the relationship. It's for the belonging. Not for distance, but for proximity, not for division, but for connection.

Show me my house. Show me my house.

It's to know, I think, that thing that all of us would like to know, and that is that "I matter." That "I matter to my government," that "I matter to my neighbors," that "I have value and am needed by my neighbors." That "I know that my government works for me and, therefore, matters to me." It's to understand "what is around me."

Or maybe it's because in that deeper, innate instant to better understand our relationship to the forces and people that are around us.

You know, there's a gentleman named Father David Hollenbach of Boston College, who wrote that, "the biblical understanding of freedom, portrayed in the account of

the Exodus, is not simply freedom from constraint, but freedom for participation in the shared life of people.”

Thomas Aquinas says it another way, that, “any seeker of a higher truth, or a God, must eventually and inevitably return to the idea of community.”

Dr. King said it another way, that, “we are bound together in a web of mutuality.”

Show me my house.

It’s the idea that we progress not on the weakness, but on the strength of our neighbors. The idea that one person can make a difference and each of us must try. If politics is the geography of ideas, then perhaps through our deeds, perhaps through our actions, perhaps through our relationships it’s up to us to become the new coordinates of a new sort of geography — a newer, deeper understanding of why our actions matter. And why it matters in our relationship to one another, and the progress that we have the freedom to choose, to choose to make.

It’s all about the relationship, our relationship to one another, our relationship to a higher truth, a truth that proclaims the dignity of every individual, and a truth that proclaims that we each have a responsibility to make this world a better place.

Show me my house.

Thanks very much.

[Tweet](#)



Tags: [baltimore city](#), [citistat](#), [statestat](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Maryland Olympians Homecoming Announcement](#)  
[2008 Board of Trade Potomac Conference](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# 2008 Board of Trade Potomac Conference

September 11th, 2008

Thank you very, very much. It's great to be with all of you.

I have enjoyed so very much over these last 18 months being able to work with two very committed and pragmatic elected officials as my neighbors, Mayor Adrian Fenty and Governor Tim Kaine. Not only do we have a tremendous amount of professional and collegial respect for each other, but we actually like each other, too. And it's amazing the sort of synergies that we can create as we realize that we're all in this together.

I am joined here by a great County Executive from Montgomery County, Ike Leggett. And Mike Knapp is here, who is the President of the County Council of Montgomery County.

Also we have Shari Wilson, who is our Secretary of the Environment. Malcolm Woolf is the head of our Maryland Energy Administration, and David Edgerley is our Secretary of Economic Development. Thank you all very, very much. (Applause)

I want to thank Delegate Bromwell, who is here from Montgomery County. (Applause)

And thank you to the Greater Washington Board of Trade for your support in our efforts to restore fiscal responsibility to Maryland.

For all of the diversity that we have in this Chesapeake crescent, we have a powerhouse of creativity, of innovation, of business acumen, of advantages and ability to compete in the global economy that's unrivaled by any other place in our country. Not only do I believe that, but there are facts to back that up. And all of you know it as well.

And one of the happy facts that I've found from traveling around this entire region is that, for all of our diversity, there are certain important things that unite us as a people – our belief in the dignity of every individual, our belief in our own personal responsibility to advance the common good, and our understanding that, in the beginning and the end of our days, there is a unity to spirit and matter and, in fact, what we do in our own lifetimes does matter. And it matters especially on this pressing moral issue of sustainability of the land, the air, the water, the energy that we use.



## Releases

In the corporate strategy that we use in our public corporation called Maryland State government, we have three unified strategies. One is security integration – sharing information so we make our region a safer place. The other one is workforce creation – if we have the best workforce in the world, we’re going to have the best economy in the world. And the third one is the sustainability issue that all of you are focused on today.

I’m not going to be redundant, but “Greening our Region, Growing our Business” – they go hand in hand, and I think that all of you understand that. It’s a big scary thing to see the projections for our State and our environment. For instance, Maryland is the third most vulnerable State in terms of sea level rise. But true consensus does form out of crisis. And out of this crisis, we can come together. We can apply the best minds to the challenges that we face together.

### Our Efforts in Maryland

I wanted to touch briefly on a few things.

1. Earlier today our EmPOWER Maryland goal was mentioned. Admittedly, it is an ambitious goal to reduce energy consumption by 15 percent by 2015. How are we going to do it? Well, one of the ways is working with Governor Kaine, Mayor Fenty and many of you in this collaborative effort to convert 74 million square feet of buildings into high performance, green structures. Working together, we’re going to be able to save about \$37 million, while reducing 555 tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

And at the State level, we’re setting new green standards for public buildings, we’re investing in green schoolhouses, and we’re giving grants and tax incentives to home and business owners to help defray the costs of installing green energy systems.

2. In addition to promoting efficiency, we’re also working to make our State a national leader in renewable energy. I think that there’s so much common ground to be found here with our neighbors in the District and Virginia as well. We’ve raised our renewable energy portfolio standard to 20% by 2022 and we’ve created an investment fund to help promote research and development of renewable technologies.

We’re working with our friends in Montgomery County, the University of Maryland, and the City of Baltimore to leverage our own market power to jumpstart large-scale commercial renewable energy projects. And our Department of Business and Economic Development representatives are fielding two, three, four more calls a week from alternative energy companies looking to relocate in Maryland or in this region because of our leadership.

3. We’re finding ways to grow smarter. My predecessor, Parris Glendening, was a real leader on this issue of growing in smarter and more sustainable ways, and we have picked up where he left off. We reinstituted our Office of Smart Growth and, more accurately, we actually turned our whole planning department into the Department of Smart Growth.

For the first time in a quarter century, we’ve upgraded our critical areas laws, and we are sticking with our open space laws. The temptation, especially when your

budget is turned down, is to hit that open space funding for general fund relief. We haven't done that. We did other things that, again, in the short term were very, very unpopular and painful, but long-term are in the best interest of our children and our children's children.

We are prioritizing transit-oriented development. We anticipate about 1.3 million people moving to our State because of BRAC, and because of the nature of our vibrant economy in the years ahead. So by 2030 we expect about 1.2 or 1.3 million people.

There is enough land theoretically around the 111 transit stops in our State that can comfortably uphold that residential growth, and so we are really pushing in a new way transit-oriented development. We are certainly going through the same challenges, in terms of not having the dollars we would like to have in order to invest in those transportation improvements. But tough cycles don't last, tough people do, and so we are keeping hope alive and that is our direction.

We hope to be able to work together as a region to make WMATA the centerpiece of a joint transit-oriented development effort that will lead the nation. We've already done some things in collaboration with Mayor Fenty.

4. On the climate change issue, we have converted all of our State vehicle fleet, including MTA buses, to clean fuel vehicles. We created a Statewide Climate Change Commission. We have, as I mentioned before, the 2015 effort that segues into this, and we'll join with other States like Massachusetts, Maine, Connecticut, and Rhode Island in the nation's first cap-and-trade auction on greenhouse gases.

And we are working very hard also to restore the health of that national treasure known as the Chesapeake Bay with performance-measured solutions. In Government we're very, very good about telling you annually what the inputs are. We are only now, because of innovative leaders like Mayor Fenty and Governor Kaine, actually embracing this notion of measuring for outputs. We have embraced a program called BayStat, where instead of asking the question every year "What are we putting into environmental protection," instead what we want to know is things like how much nitrogen have we taken out because of the \$8 million we put into cover crops, because of this acreage of expended buffer, or because we were able to upgrade new sewage treatment plants.

## Conclusion

I've probably run long enough, but let me leave you with this thought. There is a beautiful Native American saying that says that "How we treat one another is reflected in how we treat the earth." How we treat one another is reflected in how we treat the earth. And you know what? How we treat the earth just might also usher in a new era of how we treat one another.

So it's my great honor to be able to serve you in this vibrant region. Thanks very much.



0



0



Share

Tags: [brac](#), [conference](#), [potomac](#), [trade](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Remarks at the Baltimore Stat Summit](#)  
[Maryland Fishing Challenge](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Maryland Fishing Challenge

September 13th, 2008

## Introduction

Thank you very, very much. It's good to be with all of you.



I'm sure a lot of us were watching the television last night before we went to bed, and turned it on this morning to see what Hurricane Ike was doing to our neighbors down in the Gulf.

It's strange to have a beautiful day like this and see that calm water out there and know that people are suffering. So in your hearts and in your own way, say a prayer for our neighbors down there and for the first responders – some of them from Maryland – who pre-deployed to help out our neighbors.

## Maryland's Fishing Heritage

You know there's an old saying that "men and fish are alike, they both get into trouble when they open their mouths." So with that truism in mind, I'm going to reduce my 40 pages of remarks so we can get right to this.

There are 650,000 people... 650,000 people – the size of the population of the City of Baltimore – who fish in our waters here in Maryland, contributing a billion dollars to our State economy. To all of you who pay your fees for the licenses, thank you.

You know one of the best ways we can help bring back the Bay is getting more people – including the next generation – into hunting and fishing. That too, is part of natural resource conservation, education, and understanding.

## Protecting the Health of Our Bay



None of us want to be here years from now telling our grandkids, "you know what? See that beautiful water? You used to be able to fish in it." That's not the sort of legacy we want to leave to our kids.

In his own time, Teddy Roosevelt, who said some very timeless and important truths said this one, "our duty to

[Releases](#)

the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations.”

The heritage of these unborn generations... That’s what you’re doing, when you in your own activities and your own ways contribute to Bay restoration, pay your fees for your licenses, and do those things... you’re helping

us be able to pass on this heritage.

Working together, we’ve made important new investments in the Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative. Together, we’re making tough decisions – but they’re the right decisions – to bring back the Blue Crab population. Working together, we’re restoring the health of the Chesapeake Bay. We created a Chesapeake Bay Restoration Trust Fund for the first time. We’re making real progress, and we’re fixing our yellow perch management process, you’ve all been extremely helpful on that.

Working together we’ve created the Fisheries Management Task Force and the Oyster Advisory Commission. Working together, we’re investing \$3 million dollars to help rebuild the oyster reef habitat.

### Conclusion

And even in these tough times when everybody wants to “cut, cut, cut,” we are not going to cut our activities and our investments in bringing back the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

That’s something we do for the future.

You all have been very, very kind, you’ve been very, very patient. Now let’s bring up the kids.



0



0



Tags: [bay](#), [challenge](#), [fishing](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [2008 Board of Trade Potomac Conference](#)  
[Announcement of “Grow Oysters” Project](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Free State Reception: NGAUS 130th General Conference

September 30th, 2008

Thank you very, very much. Welcome to the great City of Baltimore. Welcome to the State of Maryland. Welcome to the original land of the free and home of the brave. This is very sacred ground.

I was just talking to some of our visitors and I was recounting to them what my 10 year old son said to me the last time we were out here. He said, "You know Dad, this is my favorite place in all of Baltimore." And I said, "You know what Will? It's my favorite place too." And for those of you that are visiting here, maybe for the first time, I think you'll realize what a special place this is.

Maryland is a State that is one of the original 13, and we have a very, very proud history of stepping up for our nation's defense, especially in times of great adversity. That's what the Maryland 400 did when they saved Washington's Army from annihilation in Brooklyn. That's what was done here in the defense of Baltimore and Fort McHenry.

And 60 percent of those that defended Baltimore here in 1814 against this huge force were immigrants. One out of five of the defenders in Baltimore were black citizens of a country that was still a slaveholding country, although we aspired to freedom. What must have been in the hearts of those immigrants, of those citizens black and white, as that army came down on them at this fort?

Well, we think it was an awareness, that same awareness that each and every one of you has, who have given to our country freely, serving in our Guard. We think that they had the same thing that you have – an appreciation that we are all part of something much larger than ourselves, that we are blessed to have been born in the strongest and freest republic ever crafted by man on the planet, and that its tomorrows are not inevitable. Instead, they are secured by men and women who are willing to step up, especially in times of great adversity, because that's what defines the character of a nation.

To all of you who have traveled from so far to be with us today, I do want to thank you. We are delighted and we are really, really honored to be able to host you here. I know I speak for General Adkins when I say welcome to General Umbarger, and Maryland's own General Blum. We are very, very proud of what all of you do for us.

## Releases

As Governor of Maryland, I never miss a deployment ceremony, and I am also sure to never, ever miss the welcome home ceremonies. I also have the sad occasion to go to other ceremonies, when we bring our soldiers home to rest.

And what was true on those ramparts in 1814 is still true today. It is the people from small places, close to home, who love their neighbors, who love their families, who love their country – this is the spirit of our country. This is why we are enabled to continue to bear that title of American citizen. It's because of all of you. And we're so very, very glad to welcome you to Maryland.

We hope you have a terrific weekend. Thank you so much for what you do to defend our country.



0



0



Tags: [baltimore city](#), [conference](#), [free state](#), [military](#), [national guard](#), [ngaus](#), [reception](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Announcement of “Grow Oysters” Project](#)  
[Poet Laureate Commission](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901





THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Poet Laureate Commission

October 9th, 2008

Thank you all for joining us today. Can we have a round of applause for our gracious hosts – and might I add our neighbors – here at St. John's College? President Nelson, thank you for inviting us to join you on this beautiful campus.

St. John's College honors the written word in a unique and special way, with it's curriculum based on the Western tradition's greatest books. Of all the great places of arts, letters and scholarship in our country, I can think of nowhere better than St. John's to discuss the search for a poet laureate – and we are fortunate that this remarkable place is right here in Maryland – where it's stood for centuries.

## Poet Laureate Commission

A few months before he signed the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act, President Johnson spoke before a gathering of artists at the White House, saying quote:

*"No people can afford to neglect the creative minds among it. They enrich the life of the Nation. They reveal the farthest horizons of man's possibility. And Government—as representative of all the people—should always play a role in stimulating our people."*

At the end of the day, our greatness as a State and as a people is about so much more than how many smart bombs we can drop on our enemies half a world a way – it's about our shared humanity,... It's about how many smart and compassionate hands we can extend to our neighbors. It's about the world we pass on to the next generation. And it's about the ways we invest and value all those things which define the character of our State – our public lands and waterways, our students and schools, and yes – our cultural heritage.

Since 1959, eight of our finest writers have agreed to serve as Maryland Poet Laureate. We are here today to announce the Chair of the selection committee which will recommend the 9th.

But first I wanted to offer a profound word of thanks to our current Poet Laureate, Michael Glaser, who has inspired Marylanders young and old to enjoy poetry. He has worked with hundreds of teachers and over 7,000 school children in both public and private schools. He has read poems in nearly every county in Maryland, at



[Releases](#)

schools and libraries, at community centers and civic group meetings, at writers' conferences, poetry festivals, art galleries, retirement villages, museums, and houses of worship.

Michael is an accomplished poet who has published 500 of his poems in literary journals, newspapers, and anthologies. He has edited two anthologies of Maryland poetry. And he serves as Professor Emeritus at St. Mary's College.

While Michael couldn't be with us this afternoon, he asked us share with you these words: *"I have treasured the opportunity to travel the length and breadth of this State and share with so many of the good people of Maryland a sense of the great value that both reading and writing poetry can have on our spirits and our lives as citizens."*

To help us fill Michael's very big shoes, it is my pleasure to announce that Alice McDermott will chair our Poet Laureate Selection Committee. Alice is a Maryland resident and nationally acclaimed novelist. Her fourth novel, *Charming Billy* received the 2008 Corrington Award for Literary Excellence. We are very, very lucky she has volunteered to serve our State and lead this process.

We plan to put Alice to work right away as the deadline for nominations is December 1, 2008. We will announce the new 2009 Poet Laureate in January, with the Maryland State Arts Council administering the selection process.

## Conclusion

I'd like to leave you today with some words that President Kennedy delivered as he memorialized Robert Frost, the great American poet who had served in the position which would later be known as "Poet Laureate to the Library of Congress":

*"I look forward to an America which will not be afraid of grace and beauty, which will protect the beauty of our natural environment, which will preserve the great old American houses and squares and parks of our national past, and which will build handsome and balanced cities for our future."*

*I look forward to an America which will reward achievement in the arts as we reward achievement in business or statecraft. I look forward to an America which will steadily raise the standards of artistic accomplishment and which will steadily enlarge cultural opportunities for all of our citizens. And I look forward to an America which commands respect throughout the world not only for its strength but for its civilization as well."*

Thanks for joining us.



0



0



Tags: [committee](#), [Laureate](#), [mcdermott](#), [poet](#), [st. john's college](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Free State Reception: NGAUS 130th General Conference](#)  
[League of Conservation Voters: John V. Kabler Annual Awards Dinner](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# League of Conservation Voters: John V. Kabler Annual Awards Dinner

October 20th, 2008

Thank you,... It's great to be here with all of you tonight. I want to say a special word of thanks to everyone with LCV. Your hard work is one of the key reasons that the Washington Post has declared that we're ushering in a new "eco-friendly era" in Maryland.

I would like to begin by saying a word of congratulations to our very deserving honorees: Wayne Gilchrest and Bernie Fowler. I'll be sharing a few words about Wayne and Bernie in a couple of moments – these are two people who truly embody the notion that each individual can make a difference and all of us must try.

## Progress Together for a Sustainable Future

The great American poet Bob Dylan writes, quote *"Man thinks 'cause he rules the earth he can do with it as he please. And if things don't change soon, he will."*

Here in our One Maryland – thanks in large part to the hard work of all of you at LCV – indeed, the times they are a'changing. Together, we're embracing a new spirit of progress for our environment and for a cleaner, greener, more renewable energy future:

1. Because of a more sustainable future all of us prefer, together we're renewing our commitment to Program Open Space and actually spending open space dollars on protecting open space. In two years we've been able to protect 8,175 acres– a substantial increase over the 2,461 acres protected during the comparable period in the previous administration.
2. Because of a more sustainable future all of us prefer, together we're making real progress for the Chesapeake Bay, with the Chesapeake 2010 Trust Fund and our BayStat initiative. And together, we've updated our Critical Areas laws for the first time in a quarter century.
3. Because of a more sustainable future all of us prefer, together we've created our Climate Change Commission, together we've restored our Office of Smart Growth, and together we are finally embracing smart growth strategies which protect our environment while strengthening the bonds of community which tie us together as a State and as a people.
4. Because of a more sustainable future all of us prefer, together we've passed

## Releases

landmark clean cars legislation, we've created real incentives for homeowners and business owners to install green energy systems, we've set some of the most ambitious goals in the nation for reducing energy consumption, and we led the charge to hold the first auction of greenhouse gas emission credits in America.

5. And because of a more sustainable future all of us prefer, together we're converting our State vehicle and mass transit fleets to renewable, cleaner fuels.

### Awards Presentation

Tonight, I have the distinct honor of presenting Congressman Gilcrest and Senator Fowler with some awards on behalf of the people of the great State of Maryland.

To Congressman Gilcrest, we are presenting the *Admiral of the Chesapeake*, the highest honor we bestow on an individual for their contributions to our environment. John Kabler himself, in fact, was one of the past honorees.

To anyone who cares about the land, the water, and the air, Wayne Gilcrest has proven to be a profile in courage. Congressman Gilcrest, on behalf of the people of Maryland, thank you for standing up for our shared future.

At this time, we have a second award to present. We were actually planning to give an *Admiral of the Chesapeake* to Senator Fowler as well, but when we did a little research we found out that, lo and behold, Governor Hughes beat us to the punch and already gave him one. Unfortunately, there apparently is no such thing in Maryland state government as a "double Admiral."

So on behalf of the people of the great State of Maryland, we are presenting Senator Bernie Fowler the award of *Chesapeake Bay Ambassador*, an award created in 2004 to recognize citizens for extraordinary contributions to the maritime community and to the promotion of recreational fishing and boating in Maryland.

Senator Fowler's impassioned work on behalf of the Patuxent River has earned him the nickname of "preacher of the Patuxent." He is a true leader and one of our State's strongest voices for restoring our precious waterways. Senator Fowler, thank you for everything you do for Maryland's future.

### Conclusion

I wanted to leave you today with a quote from one of our country's original conservationists, Teddy Roosevelt: "*Our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations.*"

The work of LCV benefits not only ourselves, but the next generation. This is an important organization which works on some of the most important issues of our times.

Thank you for having me here with you today, and thank you for everything you do on behalf of the heritage of unborn generations.



0



0



Tags: [annual](#), [conservation](#), [dinner](#), [kabler](#), [league](#), [voters](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Poet Laureate Commission](#)  
[SEED School of Maryland Grand Opening](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# SEED School of Maryland Grand Opening

October 21st, 2008

Good morning! This is a good day. Turn to your neighbor and tell them this is a good day in Baltimore.

You're looking at all the people at the SEED School who have done such a terrific job for so many years in Washington, D.C., and now we're going to have one of these in our own State.

I'm especially proud of the young people who are here in the first class. We're counting on you guys. We're very proud of you, we love you and we need you, and I hope that you get that sense from all the people who are here today for this great grand opening.

I know many of you saw the movie "The Boys of Baraka." We had our whole cabinet watch that movie down at the Charles Theater. But do you remember the scene that takes place after the boys had their experience cut short and have come home? It was nighttime and you could hear the sound of sirens blaring in the background, and one brother says to the other brother "Why can't we have a school like the Baraka School here in Baltimore?" And so many years later, that's what you all are doing.

The most important thing in this world is the relationship that one person has with another person. And the relationship that you are forging and you are creating for this next generation of our State is really a calculated strategy.

So we have come together as a State to make *a record* \$5.3 billion investment in K through 12 education – the largest investment in our public schools that we've made in our State's modern history.

*We've committed an historic \$741 million in school construction* to get our kids out of those temporary learning shacks and into modern classrooms.

We've held the line on college tuition for our families for the third year in a row, and we've been able to increase funding to community colleges by almost 40% more than what our predecessors were willing to fund in the comparable period in their administration.

And because of the delegates who are here today, because of Speaker Busch, because of the senators that are here, even in tough times we've invested \$2 million

[Releases](#)

dollars in the SEED School – because we believe in progress, despite these tough times.

98 percent of SEED graduates have been sent to college. 62 percent of alumni from SEED schools are on track to complete college. This is a tremendous thing that we are doing together.

The writer Toni Morrison said, “I am a teller of stories and therefore an optimist, a believer in the ethical bend of the human heart, a believer in the mind’s disgust with fraud and its appetite for truth, a believer in the ferocity of beauty. So, from my point of view, which is that of a storyteller, I see your life as already artful, waiting, just waiting and ready for you to make it art.”

To the young people of Maryland, we are all very, very proud of you. We need you, we are depending on you, and we are investing in you. Because we know that you will be able to do the right things for our country, whatever walk of life you choose in the future – doctors, nurses, lawyers, business people of our State. Most importantly, you are going to bear that most important title of all, and that is American citizen. We love you guys, we’re counting on you.

Thank you.



0



0



Tags: [baltimore city](#), [opening](#), [school](#), [seed](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [League of Conservation Voters: John V. Kabler Annual Awards Dinner](#)  
[Maryland Municipal League Fall Legislative Conference](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901





THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Maryland Municipal League Fall Legislative Conference

October 24th, 2008

Thank you Sidney. It's great to be here with all of you, and to have an excuse to visit the Eastern Shore on this beautiful Autumn's afternoon.

Dr. King said that *"the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."* Given what's going on in our country today, I think we'd all agree that it just might be time to bring out the measuring sticks.

No one in this room needs to be reminded how tough things are right now, not only in our State but everywhere in America. You feel it in the tough choices you have to make with your own municipal budgets. You see it in the looks of worry and concern in your neighbors' eyes.

This is the most serious economic crisis that I can remember our country going through in my lifetime – but we're going to get through it together. The best days in life are not always the easiest days, and in times of great adversity, as Marylanders we have always risen to the challenge – that's who we are and what we do. And throughout our great revolutionary history, whenever we've faced the prospect of allowing our circumstances to change us, we've instead rallied together to change our circumstances.

## Positive Economic News

I want to spend our brief time together talking a bit about our budget situation and the choices we've made together to restore fiscal responsibility,... but first I have some good news to share. Despite all the gloom and doom out there, we can see some very real signs that Maryland is climbing out of this national economic downturn more quickly than other States.

Today, Maryland has the 7th best job growth in the nation, and while growth rates in most States stayed flat or declined during the past year, here in Maryland we've been one of only 9 States where job growth has met or exceeded 1 percent.

Between September of 2007 and September of 2008, when our nation as a whole lost more than half a million jobs, here in our One Maryland we grew by 29,000.



## Releases

Not including the District of Columbia, our job growth is outpacing all our neighbors – regardless of whether you factor in government jobs or not.

Meanwhile exports out of the Port of Baltimore have increased by more than one billion dollars over the past year.

And our unemployment rate is 25% lower than that of the nation as a whole, 13th lowest in the country.

What's more, we're well positioned to keep growing. We have what Forbes Magazine rates as one of the nation's three most highly skilled workforces and what Education Week says is one of the nation's three best public school systems. And a recent study by the Milken Institute found that we're one of the nation's two most well-positioned states to leverage our science and technology assets for economic growth.

### **Fiscal Responsibility and the Budget**

We are only going to be able to continue leveraging our potential if we continue to protect and invest in our shared priorities. This was the course we chose a year ago when we came together in the special session and made some very tough decisions – choices that allowed us, before this national economic crisis took its turn for the worse – to nearly close the \$1.7 billion structural deficit we inherited.

Had we not made these choices together – had we turned our backs on fiscal responsibility – then we would have been faced with some very different circumstances at the Board of Public Works last week, when we addressed the \$432 million write-down created by this national recession.

To give you an idea of the circumstances we could have faced, we need only look around the country to see what other States are confronting. In Massachusetts, for example, they are facing over one billion dollars in budget shortfalls. In Florida they've cut aid to school districts by \$130 per pupil. Our neighbors in Virginia are raising college tuition. In Tennessee, between 30,000 and 40,000 seriously ill people could lose hospitalization. And, Rhode Island has eliminated health coverage for approximately 1,000 low income parents.

It's very easy to look at what's happening elsewhere and think "there but for the grace of God (and perhaps the grace of hard work and compromise) go I."

All things considered, together we have cut \$2.2 billion in spending and eliminated over 1,500 State jobs. Many of these cuts – including our most recent cuts at BPW – were cuts we wished we didn't have to make. However, even with these reductions in spending, together we're still making real and substantial investments in our shared future,...together we're continuing to strengthen our priorities rather than abandoning them. Even in difficult economic times,...

Together, we're still able to maintain our record \$5.3 billion investment in our public schools, and together we're still able to invest \$741 million in school construction – a significant increase over the \$241 million that our predecessors spent during the comparable period in their administration.

Together we're still able to hold the line on college tuition with no increase for the

third year in a row, and we're able to increase our funding for community colleges by nearly 40% (compared to what our predecessors were willing to spend during the comparable period).

Together, we're still expanding health care access to 100,000 additional Marylanders, we're still able to provide real incentives to small businesses so they can cover their employees, and we're still able to close the Medicare donut hole.

Together, we're still able to improve public safety in every region of our State – and through the successful partnerships with all of you, we're continuing to make real progress, starting with the elimination of a backlog of 24,000 unanalyzed DNA samples we inherited from our predecessors.

And together, we're still able to make steady progress toward the more sustainable future all of us prefer for our State, through both our investments and our efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay, protect and preserve open space, and promote energy conservation and renewable fuels. Through important investments we're making in the Chesapeake 2010 Trust Fund, Program Open Space, and real incentives we created to help homeowners and businesses install green energy systems, to cite just a few examples.

## Conclusion: Question 2

I leave you today with a final note. Much of our ability to continue making progress depends on our ability to pass Question 2 – and whether we're going to be able to keep Maryland dollars in Maryland which are currently being invested in other states toward their priorities.

This is a moderate, limited, State-controlled proposal with a non-partisan, nine-member State commission providing close regulation – and with the State owning and leasing all the video terminals and controlling the central computer system.

As you know we are only days away from when Maryland voters go to the polls, and we hope that we can count on your support on this very important issue.

Thank you for having me here. It's been a great honor to work with all of you these past 20 months, as together we've continued to exercise the greatest of freedom's privileges – the freedom to choose a better future for ourselves, for our children, for our posterity.



Tags: [conference](#), [eastern shore](#), [fall](#), [legislative](#), [maryland municipal league](#), [mml](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [SEED School of Maryland Grand Opening Election Update](#) »



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

## Election Update

October 28th, 2008

Good afternoon everybody! I want to thank all of the distinguished individuals who have come here today to emphasize one of the most important values that we have as a free people, and that is to be able to make our own decisions about the direction that our country will take in the years ahead.

To Senator Cardin, Attorney General Gansler, Senator Mikulski, and everyone who is here with us, thank you for coming today to emphasize two very important dates. One is November 4th, which is Election Day, but also the last day to register to vote in Maryland, which is October 14th. We need everyone to register to vote.

As Senator Cardin said, there are about a million Marylanders who are not yet registered to vote but are eligible. It is easy to register to vote – you can go online at [www.electionsmaryland.com](http://www.electionsmaryland.com), you can go to your local County Board of Elections, or you can go to your local library. And there are other avenues where you can register as well.

The deadline to register again is October 14th. That is only one week from today. So please, as the chief family officers, take charge of your own family. Make sure that everyone in your family is registered to vote. When you go to work, put up a notice on that bulletin board there at work that emphasizes and underscores that October 14th is the last day to register to vote. We really need everyone.

We have an incredibly important choice coming up on November 4th. There has never been a time in my personal memory when our country has been at such a crossroads, where there is so much at stake, where the economic imperative or the security imperative is so very, very urgent and important.

So please make sure you register by October 14th so that you can vote on November 4th. We are doing everything in our power through the State Board of Elections to make sure that we are able to accommodate what we hope and trust will be a record turnout this year in Maryland, and indeed, across the country.

There is so much at stake when it comes to our country's security, our economy, and the healthcare needs of our people. We need a federal government that is working as hard as the hard-working families of Maryland. Not only to make ends meet, but to make a better tomorrow for their children.

So in 27 days, we're going to make a big decision. But unless you're registered you

[Releases](#)

cannot be a part of that decision. One person is capable of making a tremendous difference. Some elections are decided just by one or two or three or four votes, and this could be one of those elections.

Yesterday I had the opportunity to visit the “City of Brotherly Love” in Philadelphia. And on that chair where John Hancock sat when the Declaration was signed... On that chair where George Washington sat when the Constitution was signed, is a sun that has 13 rays of light coming out from it.

Whether that sun is setting on the republic or rising on a better day for the republic depends on every individual to make a considered decision.

Vote your conscience, vote for the best, vote in the best interest of our country’s future. Make sure that sun is still rising on the republic by making sure that you are registered to vote on October 14th then of course going to the polls on November 4th.

Thank you very much.



0



0



Tags: [election](#), [registration](#), [vote](#), [voters](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Maryland Municipal League Fall Legislative Conference](#)  
[Gaithersburg Capital for a Day Announcement](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Gaithersburg Capital for a Day Announcement

November 6th, 2008

It's great to be here today with the good people of Gaithersburg. I can think of no better place to be than with my friend, Mayor Sidney Katz, the President of the Maryland Municipal League and one of the best Mayors we have in Maryland. (Applause)

There are few days that Lt. Governor Brown and I enjoy as much as travelling the State with your entire cabinet. They work for you. We're old-fashioned in the O'Malley-Brown Administration. We think that since all of us have to pay taxes, our State government should be professional, competent, and help us get things done. (Applause)

When John Smith first set foot on this land, he declared that Montgomery County was, "without question, the most healthful and pleasant place in all this country." We all still feel that way, and now with biotech you're now even more healthful.

Montgomery County is home to more than 32,000 businesses, employing nearly 400,000 Marylanders, and it's a place where great minds converge. It's a place of tremendous diversity, and it's a rare thing to have that diversity – the high number of PhD's, the innovation, the science, and the discovery – all happening in one place with such a positive quality of life. That incredible spectrum of assets really comes together in this wonderful City of Gaithersburg.

We just came from the Archstone portion of Olde Town, a tremendous shot of vitality into the center of Gaithersburg. It's exactly what we're talking about when we talk about smart and sustainable growth. I also understand that the City of Gaithersburg passed an ordinance requiring all newly-built commercial offices in the city to be smart, green, LEED-certified buildings. Earlier today, we were at the Monument Office Building for our cabinet meeting – the city's first LEED Silver-certified commercial building.

The other great thing about Capital for a Day is that your cabinet members get to join their counterparts at your local health department, your local office of economic development, your folks at parks, and join together to focus on the goals that we all share – to strengthen and grow the ranks of an upwardly-mobile middle class, to improve public safety and public education, and to expand opportunity.

[Releases](#)

That's what we're about. That's our mission statement. The only way to do that in a lasting way for future generations is through the sort of partnerships that we have with dynamic and vibrant mayors like Mayor Katz and his council, as well as Ike Leggett and the Montgomery County Council. This is a very, very strong county and a strong State, in a country that is going to become stronger everyday now as we move forward.

One of the hallmarks of our character as a people is that during times of adversity, we rise and face it together. That's what the Maryland 400 did in the American Revolution, that's what Marylanders have been doing every generation since.

We've made some important investments in our shared future, even in tough times, with record funding for public education this year – \$5.3 billion.

How do we compare to the first two years of the prior administration? I'm glad you asked. In the first two years of the prior administration, they provided \$19.6 million for school construction in Montgomery County. Together with the hard work of your delegation, in the first two years of the O'Malley-Brown Administration we provided \$98.6 million for school construction in Montgomery County. (Applause)

Our State has also now increased funding to our Community Colleges by about 37%, including a \$1.4 million Maryland Economic Development Assistance Fund (MEDAF) conditional grant to Montgomery College, which will help pay for your new science and technology business park, as well as the Germantown Life Sciences Innovation Center.

Working together, we were able to move our ranking in terms of our biotech economy from 4th in the country to 2nd because of investments like this. When they looked at the criteria of what we invest and the talents and skills of our people, we weren't 4th, we weren't 3rd, we weren't 2nd – we were number one. We were even ahead of Massachusetts in terms of what we invest in the talents and skills of our people, according to the Milken Institute.

Why do we do that? One reason and one reason only: to strengthen and grow the ranks of an upwardly-mobile middle class. That's what takes us into a better and brighter future for our kids and for theirs. So they can grow up in a place that's more just, more inclusive, and where there's more opportunity.

That's why it is my great honor to be here with you today in Gaithersburg, Maryland.



0



0



Tags: [cabinet](#), [capital for a day](#), [gaithersburg](#), [tour](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Election Update](#)

[Veteran's Day Commemoration Ceremony](#) »





THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Deamonte Driver Dental Project Announcement

November 13th, 2008

Good afternoon and thank you all for joining us. Thanks to Senator Currie, President Ramsay, and everyone with the Dental Action Committee and the Foundation School.

And thanks especially to Alyce Driver, whose courage and determination has inspired our entire State to come together after the tragic loss of her son Deamonte – a loss which continues to weigh heavily on all our hearts.

While there is nothing we can ever do to compensate for the loss of Deamonte, we can honor his memory by doing everything in our power to make sure his death was not in vain; to guarantee that in the richest country on the planet, no child ever dies for want of care from a toothache.

We're here this afternoon at the school Deamonte attended to honor his life and spirit, to ensure his story will never be forgotten, and above all to take action to prevent this story from ever being repeated.

We are announcing today that we will be investing \$288,106 in what we call the "Deamonte Driver Dental Project" – part of \$2 million we're investing together to help develop school-based dental initiatives and expand services.

Through this initiative, we'll be bringing a dental van to schools throughout Prince George's County and the surrounding region – offering diagnostic, preventative, and restorative dental services to underprivileged children.

It is our belief that, had these services been available to Deamonte, his life may have been saved.

In addition to State funding, this project is being made possible with assistance from the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society Foundation, and we are grateful to them for stepping up and doing what they can to protect the lives of Maryland's children.

We have made it a top priority for our Administration to improve dental care for our children and for our other underprivileged neighbors who otherwise would be unable to access the care they need:

- Together, we're increasing the incentives we offer to dentists to encourage

[Releases](#)

more and more of them to provide Medicaid services. Over the next three years, we'll be increasing reimbursement funding by \$40 million. To give you an example of what this means, the reimbursement rate for dentists who provide sealants will increase from \$9 to \$33 – something that we believe will lead to significantly more dentists taking Medicaid patients.

- Together, we're making an overall \$68 million investment in dental services statewide. By comparison, in 2006 (under the previous administration), our State invested only \$48 million.
- Together, we're removing bureaucratic roadblocks which have been preventing dental hygienists from providing the full array of legally permissible services at public health clinics when a dentist is not present (thus opening the door for more of our neighbors to receive the care they need).
- Together, we're moving towards a single, statewide dental vendor to increase efficiency, simplify the existing program, and provide greater transparency and accountability.
- And together, we're increasing the number of young people (through age 20) that will receive at least one Medicaid-funded dental service. In 2006, 144,000 young Marylanders received at least one service, and in 2007, together we brought that number up to 162,000.

We continue to make real and steady progress together, moving forward toward the better, healthier future all of us prefer.

But we still have a long way to go – 300,000 kids in Maryland are still waiting to receive dental care, and it's our shared responsibility as Marylanders to make sure they do.

Together we can ensure that the legacy we leave for our children is a legacy of better schools, stronger infrastructure, cleaner energy and more affordable healthcare.

Because there is no spare American, there is no spare Marylander, and there is no spare child.

Thank you.



0



0



Tags: [deamonte](#), [dental](#), [driver](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Veteran's Day Commemoration Ceremony Evening at the Embassy](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901





THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Evening at the Embassy

November 19th, 2008

Shalom,... Mr. Ambassador, thank you for hosting us this evening. What a tremendous honor this is to be a guest at the Embassy and to have the chance to visit with you once again. Thanks as well to Ron Glancz, Ron Halber, and everyone with the Jewish Community Relations Council who helped make this evening possible.

We're joined tonight by Abba Polakoff and Barry Bogage, Chair and Executive Director of the Maryland Israel Development Center, a partnership between the Jewish community, the State of Israel's Ministry of Industry and Trade, and our state government in Maryland.

One of the reasons the Center has been so effective, is that Marylanders and Israelis enjoy a unique and special relationship which dates all the way back to the early days of Israel's modern history. As you may recall, it was from our shores in Maryland that the Exodus set sail on a mission that would touch the conscience of the world and inspire international recognition of the State of Israel.

Sixty years later, shortly after Israel celebrated her anniversary, it was my tremendous privilege as Governor to present Prime Minister Olmert with a proclamation from the people of Maryland congratulating Israel on this significant milestone.

In the intervening years, Israel and Maryland have collaborated on everything from marine bioscience and agricultural research to homeland security. In fact, Maryland was the first State to establish jointly funded research and development teams with Israel,...

And in this past legislative session, motivated by our shared concern about the threats posed by Iran, together with so many who are with us this evening, we in Maryland passed some of the strongest legislation in America promoting divestment from Iran. This had special meaning to those of us who grew up in the shadow of the Cold War, as we didn't want our children or Israeli children to grow up in the shadow of a nuclear Iran.

Tonight, I want to talk with you about another great area of partnership between the Israeli people and the people of Maryland; a growing, cutting edge partnership which affirms the great Talmudic principle that *"the highest form of wisdom is kindness."* I

## Releases

want to speak with you about our partnerships in biotechnology, the sciences of healing.

### Our Recent Trip to Israel

This past May, we took a delegation from our Administration to Israel on a trade mission to promote these bioscience partnerships which are so central to the economic futures of both Israel and Maryland.

This was my second opportunity to visit Israel, my first having come during the years when I was blessed with the privilege of serving the people of Baltimore as their Mayor. Through both visits, I've been struck by all the wonderful things that make Israel, "Israel" ... the tremendous beauty, the sense of history which seems to flow through the air, and the warmth, courage, and resiliency of the Israeli people.

I will never forget the beauty of Mt. Masada or awe I felt in the Old City. I will also never forget my second visit to Yad Vashem, one of the most meaningful experiences of my life. There is a room at Yad Vashem which remains emblazoned in my memory – it's filled with children's shoes, a haunting reminder not only of a tragic past, but of the human responsibility we share in our own here and now to prevent genocide and live by the creed of *Never Again*.

As we spoke with everyday Israelis throughout our visit, I think I can speak for all of us in saying that we were reminded quite vividly that Marylanders and Israelis are united by shared values: our shared belief in the dignity of every individual; our deep embrace of community and our collective responsibility to advance the common good; our shared commitment to democracy and freedom; and the desire we feel in our hearts to secure the blessings of liberty for our children so that they might inherit a safer, more peaceful world.

We're united as well by our shared belief in the pursuit of *tikkun olam*, repair of the world. It is *tikkun olam* which underlies so much of what we're trying to accomplish together in the biosciences.

### A Partnership for Healing

President Truman predicted that Israel would have a quote "*glorious future before it*," because it would be, in his words "*not just another sovereign nation, but ... an embodiment of the great ideals of our civilization*."

Through its global leadership in the life sciences, Israel truly is living up to this promise, exporting more healing on a per capita basis than any country on earth. And thus, while her enemies seek to develop weapons of mass destruction, Israel proliferates what Dr. Jeffrey Sachs calls "weapons of mass salvation" – the cures, the sciences, and the technologies of healing.

In this sense, as we've sought to grow our bioscience industry here in Maryland, we've been looking to Israel both as a partner and somewhat as a role-model.

So this is what brought us to Israel. During the course of our week in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv we attended an international bioscience conference and had the opportunity to discuss opportunities for partnership with dozens of Israeli entrepreneurs and business executives. We also had the opportunity to meet with officials both in and

outside of government, including Prime Minister Olmert, Shimon Peres, and Bibi Netanyahu.

During my conversation with Bibi Netanyahu, the former Prime Minister was surprised by just how many institutions of science and discovery are located in Maryland. As I began to list them off – NIH, the FDA, etc.—he'd ask, "isn't that in DC?" Needless to say he was impressed, and when you think about it, we in Maryland are able to boast some truly unique and valuable assets.

### **Maryland's Assets**

As many of you know, our State is home to all of America's major federal research and regulatory agencies, in addition to some of the world's leading institutions of science and discovery.

And as impressive as our institutional resources are, our greatest assets are the talents, the creativity, the skills, and the ingenuity of our people. We have, according to Forbes Magazine, one of America's three most highly skilled workforces and that's because we also have one of America's three best public school systems.

When we talk with Israeli companies seeking to do business in Maryland, we are able to explain that Maryland has the highest percentage of doctoral scientists and engineers in the United States and the second highest percentage of professional and technical workers. On a per capita basis, we rank first in the nation in terms of federal research and development obligations. And we are home to 20 technology incubators.

This tremendous strength in our human capital is one of the reasons that the Milken Institute, which provides definitive state-by-state bioscience rankings, recently moved Maryland's overall ranking from #4 in America to #2 – saying that we're one of two states best positioned to leverage science and technology assets for growth. One of reasons they cited is that we rank #1 in America in terms of the investments we make in our human capital.

Speaking of investments, this past summer we announced a \$1.3 billion investment in our State's life science sector through an initiative we call *Bio 2020*. This represents the largest per capita investment any State has ever made in the biosciences, and it's projected to leverage \$6.3 billion for our State in private and federal investments.

To Israeli companies who may look at all these assets and consider doing business here in Maryland, we're also able to offer an outstanding quality of life. I doubt I have to remind anyone here that Maryland is one of America's most vibrant centers of Jewish life, and we have a large community of Israeli residents already working in Maryland and participating in social and business networks.

In fact, I'm told that there is an apartment complex in Rockville that is home to so many Israeli families that it's known in Israel (as well as locally) as "the Kibbutz."

Our Israeli residents conduct research at the National Institutes of Health, they work at the many Israeli companies currently doing business in our State, and some of

Maryland's Israeli residents even work on the staff here at the Israeli Embassy.

### **Current Maryland-Israeli Partnerships**

Perhaps the very best advertising we are able to offer to prospective Israeli partners is that Maryland is home to nearly 30 Israeli companies, with more than 50 Israeli firms doing business in the Washington-Baltimore metro area.

We're home, for example to Teva Pharmaceuticals, Israel's largest bioscience company and the world's largest manufacturer of generic drugs. Teva purchased Rockville-based CoGenesys in February, and following our meeting with company officials in Israel, they affirmed their commitment to working in Maryland this past spring.

Two other companies we met with in Israel announced new U.S. offices in Rockville around the same time; BiolineRX, one of Israel's leading pharmaceutical development companies, and ClassifEye, which develops identity authentication solutions.

In the days and months ahead, we hope to have more news about Israeli companies opening U.S. operations in Maryland, and we're working very hard with the Maryland Israel Development Center to make it so.

### **Progress Together with the Jewish Community**

Before I close my remarks, I want offer a final thought. The United States and Israel are two of only a small handful of countries in this world which engage in peaceful transfers of power – and both our countries are going through this process now.

When our new President-elect visited Israel as a candidate, he reportedly asked Shimon Peres what he could do as President to help Israel. It's been reported that Mr. Peres offered to Barack Obama the following advice: *"be a great president for the United States."*

Our ability to be an attractive global partner here in Maryland relies upon our ability to remain a place where people want to live, work, and raise a family.

Thus, one of the best ways we can strengthen our special relationship with Israel, is to strengthen our priorities here in Maryland,... to continue making the most important investments of all: our investments in one another.

And so, to those of you who are with us tonight that live in Maryland, we need your help as we continue together to make progress toward the goals we all share:

1. To strengthen and grow the ranks of our upwardly-mobile middle class and family owned businesses;
2. To improve public safety and public education in every part of our State;
3. To expand opportunity – the opportunity to learn and earn and the opportunity to enjoy the health of the people we love and the environment we love – to more Marylanders rather than fewer.

During these past two years, our Administration has worked very closely with the

Jewish community on many of these important issues, including health care, housing, the environment, quality of life for our seniors, and the Iran divestment legislation I discussed at the opening of my remarks.

Working together, we've closed the Medicare "donut hole," and we've passed the Flexible Leave Act, along with several important pieces of environmental legislation which are moving us closer to the more sustainable future all of us prefer for our State.

What's more, together we've delivered key funding for Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities, refugee resettlement, and three agencies of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

## Conclusion

But our work is not done, and we need your help and assistance as we continue to pursue *tikkun olam*; as we continue to work to repair the world and bring about the better future all of us prefer for our children and their grandchildren.

And as we continue this strive for progress that has defined the history of both the United States and Israel, I leave you tonight with some words from President Kennedy:

*"Israel will endure and flourish. It is the child of hope and the home of the brave. It can neither be broken by adversity nor demoralized by success. It carries the shield of democracy and it honors the sword of freedom."*

Shalom and thank you for inviting me to join you tonight. Next year in Jerusalem.



Tags: [embassy](#), [hebrew](#), [international](#), [israel](#), [jewish](#), [religion](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Deamonte Driver Dental Project Announcement](#)  
[Chesapeake Executive Council](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Chesapeake Executive Council

November 20th, 2008



Thank you Mayor Fenty. Before we begin, I want to recognize and thank the other members that are here with us today:

Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine

Chesapeake Bay Commission

Chair, and Member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Arthur D. Hershey

- EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson
- USDA Deputy Undersecretary Gary Mast
- Representing Governor Ed Rendell, Pennsylvania's Secretary of Environmental Protection John Hanger
- Representing Governor Ruth Ann Minner, Delaware's Secretary of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, John Hughes
- Representing Governor Joe Manchin, West Virginia's Deputy Director of Environmental Protection, William D. Brannon
- Representing Governor David Paterson, Navis Bermudez, Associate Director of Federal Policy Office of the Governor, New York

As Chair of the Chesapeake Executive Council, it's my role this afternoon to report on the very positive meeting we've just concluded, and to brief you on our progress and the new commitments we've made.

We had the opportunity today to conduct a critical review of our Bay restoration progress to-date, and to identify the necessary actions for accelerating our progress.

Over the past quarter-century, through this partnership we've made some significant accomplishments considering the pace and scope of development in the Bay region,... But we did not come here to celebrate. There is much more to do, and a lot is at stake.

Historically, the Chesapeake Bay has been one of the most productive estuaries on Earth, providing a tremendous habitat for fish and wildlife, as well as unparalleled economic and recreational opportunities.

## Releases

During our generation, however, we've seen a dramatic decline in the health of the Bay and the rivers and streams that flow into it. We're here today because of our shared moral imperative to chart a new course for Bay restoration and to leave a healthier Bay for our children than the one we inherited.

Moving forward, we need to consider a better model for our partnership that recognizes that the watershed is one ecosystem and that our restoration needs to be unified accordingly.

As we work together, we've made a commitment for this Council to be more accountable to the people we serve. In keeping with this commitment, we confirmed last year something many had long believed: we would be unable to reach the 2010 nutrient reduction goals established in our 2000 Agreement.

I'd like to take a moment here to acknowledge the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and our many other Bay advocates across the region. Know that we appreciate and, in fact, mirror your frustration with the pace of Bay restoration. So thank you for your partnership and your work to make sure we continue our restoration efforts.

Our most important days are rarely the easiest ones. Progress seems too often to come as two steps forward and one step back – but there is hope, and there is a way forward.

We had a very productive meeting today, and now I'd like to run through our progress.

### Moving Forward, Together

Given the rate of decline of our Bay's health, as well as the vulnerable status of essential species like the blue crab and the native oyster, it's clear that we've got to work as quickly as possible to avoid loading more nutrients into the Chesapeake.

So today, we've set bi-annual restoration goals for nutrient reduction. These will be shorter term milestones that will allow citizens throughout the region to track our progress, while enabling us to be more fluid and adaptive in our approach as we recognize new technologies or the need to change our course.

The partnership also agreed to create an independent evaluator, composed of a panel of nationally-renowned scientists that will monitor program performance, offer programmatic advice, and hold all partners accountable. This is one component of a program reorganization effort currently underway to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our restoration work – lead by Maryland staff as part of our commitment to champion accountability.

And in Maryland, we'll continue to use BayStat to ensure that we are meeting these targeted reductions every two years by developing specific action plans.

Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia and the Bay Commission have also





agreed to achieve our nutrient reduction goals no later than 2020 – even during these tough economic times. In Maryland, for example, we'll work to more than double our current rate of restoration for nutrient reduction.

We have a draft action plan for our first bi-annual period from 2009 to 2010 designed to reduce nitrogen by an additional 2.5 million pounds.

This plan focuses on the new federal Farm Bill, the 2010 Trust Fund and scheduled wastewater treatment plant upgrades, but we'll be refining it to address phosphorous and sediment reductions as well.

## **Champion Roles: 2008 Progress, 2009 Plans**

At last year's Executive Council Meeting, members embraced champion roles as a way to speed up our restoration efforts, and today we're able to report on their progress throughout the region:

1. Together, the states of the Executive Council, along with the District of Columbia and the Chesapeake Bay Commission, signed a Biofuels Executive Council Directive today called "Leading the Nation in Development of a Sustainable Next Generation Biofuels Industry." This directive is a result of last year's joint champion commitment between the State of Pennsylvania and the Chesapeake Bay Commission, who've worked together to make this region a national leader in advancing the expanded production and use of biofuels in a more sustainable way. I'd like to commend Governor Rendell and Chairman Hershey for their vision and leadership on this issue.
2. Delaware hosted a symposium designed to further the concepts of making trading and offset programs work in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to reduce nutrient input and our carbon footprint.
3. New York is leading the way in wetlands restoration through its partnership with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, with over 175 acres restored.
4. West Virginia continues to explore opportunities to improve stormwater management, recognizing the challenges of their topography.
5. The District of Columbia has implemented one of the strongest and most innovative stormwater management permits in the nation, launched the River Smart Homes program, developed an aggressive restoration plan for the Anacostia and spent more than \$1 million on low-impact development projects.
6. And our partners in the federal government have worked with us to create a more efficient Bay Program organizational structure.

The Forest Service continues to champion forest conservation and the expansion of forested buffers. EPA has designated \$12.9 million in funding for large-scale restoration projects in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and their final awards will be made next March. The Department of the Navy is pursuing low impact development solutions to stormwater management. And finally, we look forward to realizing the full potential of the new Farm Bill, which, for the first time dedicates funding to the Chesapeake Bay region.

So we continue to make progress, even during these tough economic times, thanks to these committed partners.

## **Maryland Champion Roles**





And together, we've been working hard to do our part here in Maryland as well. Our own champion commitments included Accountability, Blue Crab Restoration, Local Government Engagement, and Innovative Technology.

. Through strong action and an historic collaboration with Virginia and the Potomac

River Fisheries Commission, Maryland took significant steps toward rebuilding a sustainable blue crab fishery. This included directing State funding to mitigate the impact on our watermen, and seeking a federal disaster declaration. We have already begun using some of the \$3 million in State funds to employ waterman to conduct environmental restoration work.

And on Tuesday, the federal Department of Commerce announced that Maryland and Virginia will receive \$10 million each in federal fisheries disaster assistance funding – which will be used to further mitigate the economic impact of restrictions on our watermen and help position our fishery for a more sustainable future.

I'd like to recognize Senator Barbara Mikulski and the Maryland congressional delegation for their leadership in obtaining this much-needed funding. I also want to thank our incoming chair Governor Kaine and the Potomac Fisheries Commission for their partnership on this issue, as we commit to enforcing new regulations across the Bay and to staying the course with harvest restrictions until stocks rebuild.

2. In 2008, Maryland worked with local governments to improve service delivery and results, developing new efforts to engage citizens and businesses. We created the 2010 Chesapeake and Coastal Bays Trust Fund to provide implementation dollars directly to our local governments and partners for targeted restoration activities.

We developed the Watershed Assistance Collaborative, in cooperation with the Chesapeake Bay Trust, the University of Maryland and our State agencies. It's a new service that will connect Maryland communities interested in undertaking comprehensive watershed restoration projects to the people and programs that will help them accomplish their goals.

We also launched the Maryland [Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership](#), an innovative, public-private initiative created to restore and create [wetlands](#) and [oyster reefs](#), enhance [fish passage](#), and control [invasive species](#).

And just last week we launched Smart, Green & Growing, a new initiative to inspire action among all Marylanders so we can move forward toward a cleaner, greener, more sustainable future for our State. We have even expanded our engagement effort to Maryland's prisons as well, where inmates are providing labor for Bay restoration projects and learning new skills.

This year, we'll continue to lead this champion role by fully implementing the Trust Fund and expanding the availability of these new services.

3. This year, Maryland worked with the EPA and the University of Maryland to

find ways to use technology in a bigger way as a tool to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution throughout the watershed. I am pleased to announce today our first investments in these new technologies, and I'd like to acknowledge Dr. Darryll Pines, the incoming Dean of the Clark School of Engineering, who is representing the University of Maryland here today.

- A \$100,000 grant to Zymetis, Inc., whose enabling enzyme technologies use a unique bacterium isolated from the Bay to convert cellulosic biomass into sugars that can be fermented into biofuel ethanol; and
- Next year, we'll continue leadership in this champion role of supporting the Bay Restoration Innovative Technology Initiative by working on a new RFP to generate more projects.

Today, we agreed to work with National Geographic and their partners to support the introduction of FieldScope in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This state-of-the-art web-based GIS tool is designed to help students and citizens investigate water quality issues on local and regional scales.

Next month, we'll launch the first component of Maryland iMap, an innovative Statewide public mapping resource center that will serve as the repository of the best mapping information available from federal, state and local government sources. Our one map represents a new vision for citizen engagement as well as state and local government data sharing and decision making.

And looking ahead, we're also announcing today a new partnership between our Departments of Natural Resources and the Environment and our Department of Transportation, who will be applying the BayStat approach to implement a better model for using mitigation funds to accelerate Bay restoration and improve cost effectiveness. This is another opportunity for us to target our resources, ensuring the best ecological outcomes.

## Conclusion

Together, we can work to ensure that the legacy we leave to our children and theirs is one that is even better and stronger than the one we inherited – that the land, the air, the water that we love are just as clean, productive and beautiful for future generations.

On behalf of our One Maryland, it has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as chair of the Chesapeake Executive Council for the past two years. However, it's my great pleasure to now turn the reins over to someone who is a great leader, a great conservationist and a great friend, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine.



0



0



Share

Tags: [bay](#), [chesapeake](#), [conservation](#), [council](#), [epa](#), [executive](#), [federal](#), [pennsylvania](#), [photos](#), [preservation](#), [seafood](#), [virginia](#), [wetlands](#), [wildlife](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Evening at the Embassy](#)



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland

November 24th, 2008



Thank you all for joining us today. Thanks especially to Billy Shore and everyone with Share Our Strength, and to Dr. Grasmick, Principal Prentiss Moore and the students, faculty and staff of Highlandtown Elementary/Middle School, our kind hosts this afternoon.

We are here today because we believe that it's within both our capacity and our compassion as Marylanders to eliminate childhood hunger within five years, establishing ourselves as the first State in America to do so, and continuing our great Revolutionary tradition of leading the way through times of great adversity.

It's been our history as well to prove that tough times don't last, tough people do – and once again we are facing some very difficult economic times, made even more challenging for many Maryland families as the autumn weather gives way to the cold of winter.

But we are going to get through this together, and now that the election season is over and the holiday season is beginning, it is a time for renewing our focus on the things that unite us: our belief in the dignity of every individual; our belief that there is no such thing as a spare Marylander or spare American,...

And our belief in certain basic aspirations shared by all humanity: that all our children, regardless of their parents' party affiliation deserve a healthy start, a decent home, a place to play where they don't have to dodge hypodermic needles or bullets, and the ability grow up free from the affliction of hunger.

But tragically, there are more than 184,000 children in our State who live with this affliction of hunger.

## Announcement

We are announcing today that, together with Share our Strength, we have launched the Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland and tasked it with developing a

## Releases

five-year plan to end childhood hunger in our State.

During the initial stages of our efforts, we are focusing on increasing enrollments in four federally funded programs in FY'09.

1. The School Food and Nutrition Program, which we are seeking to offer to an additional 65,000 students this fiscal year.
2. The Summer Food Service Program, for which we would like to increase enrollment by 49,000 this fiscal year.
3. The Child and Adult Care Food Program, where we are trying to increase the number of centers from 564 statewide to 677.
4. The Food Supplement Program, or what used to be known as the Food Stamp Program, for which we are trying to increase household enrollment by at least 15%.

Taken together, these increases would yield an additional \$21 million in federal funding for Maryland to help our children during these difficult economic times.

The Partnership, which will be led by Share our Strength and our Office for Children, will include representatives from across our State government, along with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Maryland Food Bank, Advocates for Children and Youth, Maryland Hunger Solutions, and the Food Research and Action Center.



## Conclusion

The progress we are seeking on childhood hunger is part of our broader efforts to protect our children and give them a brighter future. Working together, for instance we're expanding health care coverage to tens of thousands of previously uninsured children and improving dental coverage so that we'll never lose another Deamonte Driver, the little boy who passed away when a toothache spread to his brain,...

Together we're investing a record \$5.3 billion in school construction and we're investing \$741 million to replace temporary learning shacks with modern classrooms.

And together, we're taking back our neighborhoods and making them safer for our children – with homicides in Baltimore down 19% this year.

We still have a ways to go, but working together we're making progress. And God wants every partial victory.

Thank you. Up next I'd like to call Bill Shore to the microphone.



Tags: [childhood](#), [childhood hunger](#), [hunger](#), [photos](#), [school](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Chesapeake Executive Council](#)

[Ask The Governor: A Special Edition of Direct Connection](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Ask The Governor: A Special Edition of Direct Connection

November 24th, 2008

## MPT's Interview with Governor O'Malley

### Jeff Salkin

"Good evening and welcome to a special edition of Direct Connection I'm Jeff Salkin. Tonight your chance to ask the governor. Governor Martin O'Malley is with us here in the studio. Governor thank you for being here"

### Martin O'Malley

[00.49:10] Jeff thanks for doing this and thank you to MPT for being willing to do this. I know you all have a state wide audience and it's a great opportunity so I appreciate it." [00.57:05]

### Jeff Salkin

"Well you know we've done these programs before but maybe more sporadically than what we're going to do it going forward so we appreciate you're time" [01.03:27]

### Martin O'Malley

Glad to.

### Jeff Salkin

"Let's start with the economy. Obviously we have a major economic crisis going on. We know that Maryland's unemployment rate has increased now to I think 5 percent but compared to a national rate that's higher than that still the trend hasn't been good. What do you know about the local revenue figures for the state and what you think the overall impact is going to be?" [01.26:23]

### Martin O'Malley

Sure. Our unemployment rate now is 5 percent which is the highest its been in 14 years so that's the bad news. The good news is relative to other states we're doing better than other states. We're one of only 7 states that actually had positive job



## Releases

growth over this last really difficult year. But we're in for some rough sledding. Our country's economy; the ripple effect that, that has through out the whole global economy. We're certainly not immune from that. And as we look at our revenues, which of course are dependant on economic activity and people spending, we see those revenues continue to be adjusted downward in the forecast. [02.06:15] So, we're anticipating another revenue forecast in December and it will probably be some more bad news reflecting the downward trend in the economy. A few months ago we had to cut about 400 million dollars out of the current year budget and in the next forecast its probably going to force us to go back in this current year and find another 200 million some how. And none of it will be pleasant; all of it will be painful. None of it will be easy; but there's a lot of hope in the air with the election and the new president. I know the market tends to bounce up and down in this transition time but as we tape tonight, as we go live tonight, today was a good day. Other days have not been as good. But I'm hopeful and optimistic that with new presidential leadership that we'll be able to come out of this. And Maryland will come out of this sooner than other economies in our country. [03.04:19]

"In Washington they have the big printing press and they used it effectively. This morning on city group, at the state level you don't have that, you have to balance the budget. We've had some tax increases a year ago in a special session. Is there anything left other than severe cuts if this trend continues?"

[03.28:26] I think we're in for a lot more cuts. I also believe from conversations I've had with the president elect that he's very cognizant of the fact that when the economy goes down, that more and more people are in need of the unemployment benefits. More and more need of the Medicaid applicants goes up and all of those sorts of things. So, I'm hopeful and optimistic that as part of the second stimulus that there will be some dollars that go to states to sure up and to reinforce those sorts of safety net things that we have. But you're right we can not print money at the state level. Every year we have to balance the budget. I'm proud of the fact that over that last 2 years our budget has only grown by about 3 or 4 percent which is substantially down in terms of its rate of growth of what our state budget was doing in the years prior. The two ways that I' kind of look at this is that Jeff is that on one hand one you have the structural deficit, this new O'Malley Brown administration now heading into the midterm if you will, the mid point in a 4 year term. We had to wrestle with some bad decisions that we made as a state that created a structural imbalance. [04.46:14] That is our rate of investing in things. Important things like public education. Was great layout stripping, the rate that our revenues were yielding for us. So we had to address that structural problem. We did it three ways: 2 billion dollars in cuts and spending reductions; 1.3 billion in new revenues; and then the third piece the voters approved and that is the limited number of slot locations in our state. Unfortunately, those dollars don't come into the equation for another couple of years. But that was the structural fix. The fix now is simply unfortunately more cuts and more postponing of good things we would like to be able to do that we can not because of the national economic outlook. But as that improves we're going to be in a much stronger position to be able to capitalize on that quickly. [05.34:04]

**Jeff Salkin**

"We have a bunch of phone calls. We'll get to those in a second. Let me first take

a look at an email question. This came in from Walter who is a State employee. He writes...”

[05.43:10] In the past state employees have been the target of budget balancing strategies...what do you plan to do differently to protect the integrity of state services...if you do anticipate using similar past strategies, what sacrifices do you plan to make personally and professionally to be a good public role model. Lastly, will you be asking state legislatures and other elected or appointed persons paid by state funds to make sacrifices similar to those imposed upon State workers?

“And what I remember from the last big go round in the state with budget cuts was the public officials are essentially protected by the constitution. You can’t reduce their salary during their term in office.” [06.38:22]

### **Martin O'Malley**

In the past, in response to the email, we have had to not had to do furloughs. In the past we have been able to focus most of our personnel decisions on vacant positions, not all. There had been some people that unfortunately have lost their jobs especially in the last go round of these cuts. We have not had to do furloughs, in order to do that because of the agreements we’ve signed we’d have to have some greater conversations with labor leaders of our public employees. We plan to do that in the time ahead. I certainly plan to take those furlough days assuming that that is the direction in which we go. You know the other alternative is more layoffs, and I really do not want to do layoffs in these tough times. We have a lot of dedicated and really hard working state employees. I think that a better accommodation would be those furlough days especially as we find ourselves in the middle of this fiscal year having to make these cuts. I do not want to do layoffs and we will continue to look for other options too short of that. As indeed we have, the measures that legislatures voted for on taxes, whether that was the corporate or the whether that was the sales tax, or those other things were very painful and politically unpalatable and unpopular things. We did those however because we are mindful of the fact that Maryland actually has, if you look at the number of public employees we have, we’re actually fairly lean as a state. I think we rank 33rd or 34th on a per capita basis even when you combine the local public employees. So we’re very mindful of how hard people are working and we know that state employees are hit by these times as well. We’re going to do everything in our power to avoid the massive layoffs that you’ve seen in other states, some very near to us. [08.42:16]

“Just to follow up on the furlough question, so you’re saying that meetings have been scheduled with union leaders and its not you personally, it’s the administration, or how does that work?”

[08.53:04] No it’ll be me personally and it’ll also be the follow up meetings and talking to labor leaders as the partners that they are in an effective and working state government. And figuring out ways that we might be able to meet the latest round of cuts or rather the revenue gap we’ll say probably a 200million dollar short fall we need to find a way to make that. And furlough days could well be part of that as I said in the last cuts we did when we had to cut 400 million dollars without going to the unsavory option of the furlough days. We need to talk to our leaders, also do it in a way that’s fair all around but mindful of the fact that there are a lot of state employees, approximately 9 or 10thousand of whom make less than 40thousand a



year so asking them to give up a number of days whether its 5 or 6 or 7 is a much greater impact on someone at that income level than asking people who make 70, 80, 90 thousand dollars to give up 5 days. [10.03:03]

**Jeff Salkin**

"Let's take a phone call, Donna in Baltimore county. Donna thanks for the call go ahead"

**Caller: Donna**

[10.08.26] Hello Governor How are you? Fine, just a question from some of my fellow employees and myself, years ago they offered an early out for employees that had almost 30 years of service in. If they had 27 years or more they let them go like they had 30 years of service. Would that be happening again maybe to balance to balance the budget. [10.32.00]

**Jeff Salkin**

"Donna thank you so much." [10.33.00]

**Martin O'Malley**

Yea Donna that's certainly something we can look at. Here's my fear about that. We did that once when I was mayor of the city of Baltimore and we ended up losing a lot of really experienced and good public employees who had the years of experience and we found ourselves really reeling from that lost of experience as we tried to rebuild in the years ahead. I readily admit to you I was one of the people that were pushing it as a councilman at the time that we did it. Any sort of an early out thing would not be something that we can do in this current fiscal year as we approach the middle of the fiscal year. I suppose we could consider it as we start to formulate next years budget. But again we're talking about a state government that is fairly lean. You probably know, sounds like you're a state employee, a lot of state employees are doing the job that a couple of people were doing 5, 10 years ago. We can look at that, it has not been an option that at first glance was something we were inclined to do. [11.42:03]

**Jeff Salkin**

"Here's another email question, this is from Bob, and here's a revenue idea. Maryland could not only get more revenue from a raise in the alcohol tax, but possibly save lives at the same time. The tax has been the same since 1955, that is over 50 years. A 20-30 percent increase would help save lives and help the state revenue. Is the lobby that strong, or has every Governor been afraid to raise the tax because he would not get re-elected" [12.11:27]

**Martin O'Malley**

Sure I think its safe to say that we've look at every revenue stream that upon which the state budget depends. When we went through the special session that was a product of trying to come up with a consensus of majority in the house and in the senate in order to accomplish the difficult things we needed to do. If memory serves me correctly a 20 to 30 percent increase in the alcohol tax which as the writer points out, has not been raised in some time. A 20-30 percent increase would yield

somewhere in the neighborhood of 6 to 9million dollars depending on sales in the like. [12.55:27]

**Jeff Salkin**

“Sounds like a lot of money”

**Martin O’Malley**

[12.58:08] Right. Then you compare that to a 1 percent increase in the sales tax yields roughly about 750million dollars. [13.08.09]

**Jeff Salkin**

“What about the gas tax. It’s always been talked about and the issue in the recent pass its been gas costs 3dollars or 4dollars a gallon and nobody politically would want to increase taxes in the face of that. Now that we’re back under 2 does it make sense to look at it again?” [13.24:09]

**Martin O’Malley**

Yea. It’s an interesting question. We talk about that extensively and coming up to the special session and as its come to be known as the especially hard and horrible session as those of us who are in the middle of it remember it. [13.41:12]

**Jeff Salkin**

“Precisely a year ago I think. Right before thanksgiving” [13.42:13]

**Martin O’Malley**

I think it was. I met with every delegate and every senator in that time. Well I probably met with at least three quarters of them. There were some whose opinions who were so cast in stone that it would’ve been a waste of their time. I don’t think I could count even 3 or 4 votes for putting any sort of increase on the gas tax. Even some sort of inflationary indexing if you will that would allow it to keep paste with inflation. The gas tax is a flat tax in our state. It’s a flat tax in most states and then there’s a federal aspect to it as well. The other interesting phenomenon we’ve seen is even without raising that gas tax, we were able to find ways to create other revenue for the transportation trust fund for important transportation projects that we need to do whether it’s mass transit or whether its some expansions of roads. Much of that work diversifying it with a portion of the corporate income tax diversifying it with transportation funding, with a portion of the sales tax, the titling tax. Many of those things have been hit by the national economy, and hit by one other thing which is that people are changing their driving habits. And part of the assumption in the past had always been people will always drive as many miles or probably more as the population increases. Well we’re seeing some really phenomenal changes happening now and I’m sure this is something being discussed on a national level. It is not something where there is much political will at all in the legislature especially in these really tough times. So theoretically there are those who argue that it would make sense and that if you had some sort of a blinker tax if you will where if gasoline fell below a certain amount per barrel or oil fell beneath a certain amount per barrel that there is a certain tax that goes in that would keep the long term pricing stability in place. So that people who invest in renewable would know that

there's a certain return that's coming from that Rand D investment. These things are all better done Jeff, I think anyway, at a national level with a true energy policy where this makes sense. To do it on a state by state basis has been really difficult as Governor Kane can tell you in Virginia and virtually every governor. I mean, the gas tax is a very very difficult thing to do on a state by state basis and I would hope that with a new energy policy, there might be some better guidance coming out of Washington on that score.[16:31:24]

**Jeff Salkin**

"Let's get to a couple more calls. Kathy in Anne Arundel County. Kathy, thank you for calling, go ahead.

**Caller: Kathy**

[16:37:00] Hi, good evening gentlemen. I was wondering if the governor might foresee anytime in the near future that some of the bailout money would trickle down to small businesses to help the small business centers of Maryland that are struggling through these times also.[16:54:11]

"What kind of small business Kathy?

**Caller: Kathy**

[16:56:01] I actually own a small business that employs under twenty-five people that supplies ice and various other products to our consumers. [17:05:24]

**Jeff Salkin**

"And you see all these bailouts, and you want to know when yours is coming up?"

**Kathy**

[17:09:12] Well I don't necessarily need a bailout, I'm just wondering if some of the money is going to free up a cash flow that small businesses will be able to maybe get loans or any help that they also need. [17:24:07]

**Jeff Salkin**

"Kathy, thank you very much. There is a little bit of bailout envy going around now. The automakers are next. Apparently, they're going to caravan now instead of fly to Washington. They're going to drive their GM or Chrysler or Ford vehicles . Where does it stop? Should the little guy be looked at here? [17:41:02]

**Martin O'Malley**

It's my understanding and I think it was the hope of those that voted for the 700 billion dollars, that that would free up what has become a credit engine that has ceased in our country. So the hope was that secretary Paulson or his successor would find a way to, with those additional dollars, start to free up these credit markets so that small businesses would be able to get loans and so some degree of normalcy would start to return to that. [18:17:07] That hasn't happened yet. And I'm sure that in naming his economic team first, in the course of his transition, that this is priority number one for President-elect Obama: How can we make sure that that 700 billion dollars is not something that simply goes to banks, stays at banks, and

the banks use to buy up other banks, but rather something that enables the economy to start moving again, that allows a small business to get that loan that they're unable to get right now. So that's the hope and I think that Kathy, we just need to support our new president and the new team he has in place and hopefully they'll find a way to make sure that that happens. [18:59:59]

**Jeff Salkin**

"There's a rumor going around, speaking of his new team that's being assembled, that your lieutenant governor Anthony Brown is on the short list for a cabinet post in the Obama administration. Can you add anything to that and have you seen a flurry of resumes coming in for people who want to be the next lieutenant governor? [19:16:08]

**Martin O'Malley**

I have not see a flurry of resumes and from a very selfish standpoint, I hope that doesn't happen because I rely on Anthony Brown every day. He's been a terrific lieutenant governor. He managed our whole transition process so it doesn't surprise me that President-elect Obama would have recruited him to take a leadership role, and given his military background, to have him look at veteran's policies and the like. So I would hope that I don't have to look for a new lieutenant governor. I want him to stay. We just came out of a budget meeting and at those meetings he provides a really valuable perspective with the years he served in the General Assembly and his knowledge of state government. So I have not see a flurry of resumes and I hope I don't ever have to see a flurry of resumes.[20:04:22]

**Jeff Salkin**

"Has the topic come up between the two of you?" [20:06:13]

**Martin O'Malley**

Oh we talked about it. Certainly. And recently, there was a lot more speculation I believe. A blogger and then some publications started writing that he might be on the shortlist for V.A. Secretary and I think that speculation is natural given his talents and given his military service and I think he may well be the highest ranking elected official that has served in Iraq in elected position in our country, I do believe. And also he went to Harvard and was in roughly the same year, or either a year ahead or a year behind President-elect Obama. So all of that speculation is natural, given his talents and we certainly talked about it and he's focused on doing the best job he can as lieutenant governor and doing the best job he can now that he's been tapped on the transition team. But it doesn't surprise me that he's sought after and frankly, I think the people of our state should be proud of the fact that not only Anthony Brown, but some other cabinet members, Tom Perez in Labor, Licensing and Regulation sort of the czar of workforce development, he's playing the leadership role in the transition and we should be proud of that as Marylanders.[21:21:19]

**Jeff Salkin**

"Jeffrey in Prince George's County. Jeffrey, thank you for calling. Go ahead." [21:27:02]

**Caller: Jeffrey**

Thank you. Good evening Governor. My wife and I are home owners and we're wondering, what is your position on getting the purple line started up and connected to the rest of the Metro system? [21:47:14]

**Martin O'Malley**

[21:49:00] Well I'm very much in favor of the purple line. We have a number of big transit projects that we're pursuing and I'm also hopeful that with a federal government that's a lot more engaged, and with a president like Barack Obama , who understands infrastructure centrality to our own economic security and growing our economy, that we'll be able to get some more federal help for those as well.[22:16:08] There are some who say why don't you just pick one project and think small. Why try to pursue a number of things at the same time. But I think we're heading into a phase again, as a nation, where the infrastructure is going to be high on the federal priority list in a way that it certainly wasn't under outgoing President Bush. It feels good to say that. Outgoing President Bush. So we are pursuing the purple line.[22:40:05] We have allocated state funding for the planning and design of the purple line. There are still debates as to whether it's heavy rail, whether it's light rail, whether it goes above ground, whether it goes below ground, whether it goes through a golf course, whether it goes underground through the golf course, and all of those sorts of things. And similar conversations are going on about the red line in Baltimore. We have a subway and a light rail that tend to go on one access, north and south. I'm sure it would be nice and I think you'd get more ridership if you could go east to west on it. So the red line is part of that. [23:12:17]

**Jeff Salkin**

"Garrett in Montgomery County. Garrett, thank you for calling. Go ahead

**Caller: Garrett**

[23:16:13] Good Evening Governor. We are starting a new business, offering renewable energy and building efficiency solutions for existing real estate. I have two quick questions for you. What can we expect for Maryland's government to help this important and growing industry and also a more specific question , could you please look into why Maryland offers renewable energy credits also known as recks(?) for photovoltaic and other renewables, but not solar thermal hot water. [23:44:02]

**Martin O'Malley**

[23:45:20] But not for solar thermal hot water.

"I know there's a difference between the flat panels on the roof that generate electricity and some other technology that heats water.

[23:55:22] Well this is a brave new world and I know that a lot of countries are ahead of us in these technologies and the applications of them. We do have one of the more forward looking energy policies when it comes to solar and if there's something that we've missed, we can certainly go in this legislative session and make those available. [24:17:09]

**Jeff Salkin**

"I've got about thirty seconds and I know we wanted to talk about bay stat for a second. [24:21:07]

**Martin O'Malley**

We only have thirty seconds in the whole?

**Jeff Salkin**

"We do. Now we're at about twenty-five. Everybody should go look at the bay stat website, right?" 24:30:14]

**Martin O'Malley**

We just had a meeting with the executive council with, you know, governor Kane and governor Rendell and mayor Fenty and on our state website is a program called Baystat, where we actually are measuring performance when it comes to bay restoration and improving the health of the bay, and I just commend viewers in Maryland to go check it out. It's Baystat, you're going to be hearing more about Baystat and also more about Maryland's green print, which we're going to launch shortly.[24:58:10]

**Jeff Salkin**

"And we have the internet address on the screen there. baystat.maryland.gov. And the good news is that we're going to have more time to talk about all this stuff in roughly a month. Governor thank you for being here with us." [25:07:25]

**Martin O'Malley**

Jeff thank you. That flew.

**Jeff Salkin**

"It really did. We'll have to do it again. Governor thanks again. Thank you for watching Direct Connection. From all of us at MPT, have a good night.



Tags: [ask the governor](#), [interview](#), [mpt](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland](#)  
[One Maryland: Smart, Green and Growing](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# One Maryland: Smart, Green and Growing

December 3rd, 2008

We are in the midst of very difficult and challenging times, not only here in our own State, but throughout our country and throughout our world.

Arnold Toynbee, a great historian, posited that humankind *"progresses in response to adversity."* In ways both large and small, this has been the common story of our great Revolutionary history. As Marylanders, we've always responded to adversity by choosing to step-up and to lead; to set an example for other States to rally around, and to demonstrate through our own choices and our own actions that the best days in life are not always the easiest days.



Despite the economic challenges we are facing, I continue to believe in progress,... I believe in the making and creating of progress; and, I believe that progress comes from what Robert Kennedy called *"the rational application of human effort to human problems."*

Without a doubt, one of the most urgent and pressing of those human problems is how and whether we can long survive as a species on this finite globe of land and water that is becoming increasingly hotter, increasingly more crowded, and increasingly more polluted and depleted because of human choices.

You see, God gives us not only the intellect and imagination to harness nature but the intellect and compassion to protect and conserve it. He also gives us the free will to choose — as individuals and as a community — whether we care for nature or whether we utterly consume and destroy her without regard for future generations.

As we make these choices together, God has brought us to our own cutting edge of history — a time in the human experience when the unity of technology, creativity and imagination now allow us to rewrite our own destiny, parcel-by-parcel, neighborhood-by-neighborhood, and yes — neighbor-by-neighbor,...

To heal our ecosystem by mapping and pinpointing every plot of land, every square mile, every peak and valley, field and stream, farm and forest — all of the otherwise

## Releases

disparate places and actions that, coordinated together, are critical to sustaining Maryland's quality of life – my children and yours, and future generations still unborn.

### Announcing the GreenPrint

It is from our willingness to apply these new rational human efforts to the cause of sustainability – and from our shared preference for a greener future for our State, our planet, and our posterity – that we are here this afternoon to announce the launch of our GreenPrint, and the expansion of our Program Open Space and Rural Legacy initiatives.

Some four hundred years after Captain John Smith drew the first map of the Chesapeake Bay, today we're launching a Statewide "iMap," a "GreenPrint" of Maryland every bit as revolutionary in our own time as Smith's map was in his,... and carrying with it the same potential to unlock the doors of possibility for future generations.

We are literally mapping every parcel and plot of land in our State, creating one Statewide basemap for One Maryland that will be available to our partners both inside and outside of government, including our most important partners of all: the citizens of Maryland, who will have access via the internet.

This GreenPrint is at the center of a new initiative we call "Maryland: Smart, Green, & Growing," designed to help awaken in ourselves and our neighbors a renewed sense that we can choose a more sustainable future through the decisions we make in our own here and now.



It's part of our overall strategy to promote sustainability, one of three "S's" – along with security integration and the skills of our workforce – that we're implementing across our State government to get all our trains running on the same gauge of track.

GreenPrint combines cutting edge technology with the timeless principles we're applying via StateStat and BayStat to the pursuit of progress: setting goals, measuring performance, and applying rational human efforts to the challenges which flow from the tremendous growth projected for our State, and from our sense of responsibility to future generations.

In these difficult economic times, many of our counterparts in other states would love to have the challenge of dealing with massive growth. While other governors wake up every day, sip their morning coffee, open their newspapers, and read about jobs and opportunity leaving their states, here in Maryland we're anticipating a population expansion of more than a million people.

At present, a full 21% of our State is already developed, while 21% is protected. This means that our future will be defined by the choices we make for the 58% of remaining lands which could go either way. GreenPrint is designed to help guide us through making the right decisions with this land – a departure from our recent history when, quite frankly, we haven't always made the best choices. Case in



point: for the past thirty years, we've allowed land consumption to grow by 100% at a time when our population grew by only 30%.

To prevent us from repeating the mistakes of our recent past, we're using GreenPrint to help us make the choices about our open space which will allow us to maintain a protected network of the wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, farms, forests and public spaces which are essential to the health of our ecosystem and the character of our State.

We used a similar approach in the City of Baltimore to determine which vacant properties should be the highest priority for purchase and/or demolition at a time when decades of population loss had left us with 15,000 vacant properties. Strategically mapping and targeting our efforts allowed us to identify which properties were most important to the health and character of our City.

In much the same way, through GreenPrint we are able to map high priority conservation targets based on defensible ecological criteria, with each potential acquisition scored and rated for its ecological value, so we can use our precious conservation dollars where they are needed most, and where they will have the greatest effect. In addition, it allows us to track the outputs from our existing programs, and to share real-time statistical information with our partners both inside and outside of government.

And GreenPrint, which can be accessed online, allows us to better engage our citizen partners, as users can see where they live in relation to protected lands, track their State government's progress in protecting these lands, and interactively identify how their own land fits into the bigger picture of our smart, green, and growing future.

This is a priority for us because we believe that progress is only possible with the participation and engagement of those who hold what Justice Louis Brandeis called the most important political office: that of private citizen.

This is the impetus behind initiatives like Marylanders Grow Oysters – for which we have 168 citizens growing oysters in 811 cages along the Tred Avon River – and Marylanders Grow Trees, where we're asking our fellow citizens to plant 50,000 trees by 2010. For this initiative, we're setting up an interactive website where citizens can register the trees they plant, calculate their benefits. When it's completed this spring, any Marylander will be able to view their trees on an interactive, "Google"-like map, while we track our Statewide progress through BayStat.

## **Land Purchase and Rural Legacy Announcements**

Our goals for GreenPrint are not some pie-in-the-sky daydream that we can afford to pass off to the next generation. They require our immediate attention, which is why today we are announcing our intention to bring to the Board of Public Works a request to protect 9,242 acres of some of our most ecologically and historically significant lands through Program Open Space.

In the past two years, we've been able to protect 8,175 acres, a substantial increase over the 2,461 acres protected during the comparable period in the

previous administration. Today we are more than doubling our progress to more than 17,000 preserved acres. These lands span four Maryland counties – including areas experiencing unprecedented growth – containing nearly 20 miles of shoreline along the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay, and thousands of acres of forest land.

In addition, we're proposing \$13.5 million in new Rural Legacy Grants, with nearly half these grants falling in targeted ecological areas. These lands buffer the Chesapeake and its tributaries from pollution, helping local communities preserve their heritage and character, supporting our farming, forestry, and tourism economies, and preserving critical habitat for native plant and wildlife species.

## Conclusion

Our founding fathers wrote of “securing the blessings of liberty” not only for themselves, but for their posterity,... an idea echoed by Teddy Roosevelt, one of our nation's original conservationists, when he said in his own time that: *“Our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations.”*

None of us want the day to come when we have to tell our children and grandchildren that *“once upon a time we were able to fish in Maryland's waters”* or that *“once there were forests here, filled with wildlife.”* And so we are choosing once again to respond to adversity with progress; to affirm our duty to ourselves, to our children, and to the heritage of unborn generations.

Working together, we've chosen to create the Chesapeake 2010 Trust Fund and to make difficult decisions to protect our blue crab, terrapin, and yellow perch populations. Together we've chosen to restore our Office of Smart Growth, to create our Climate Change Commission, to pass landmark Clean Cars legislation and to update our Critical Areas Laws for the first time in a quarter century.

Although there is much more work to be done, we're committed to continuing our progress together as One Maryland, united in our preference for a more sustainable future. One Maryland: smart, green, and growing.



Tags: [agriculture](#), [geographic](#), [GIS](#), [mapping](#), [One Maryland](#), [smart green & growing](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Ask The Governor: A Special Edition of Direct Connection](#)  
[Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium

December 3rd, 2008

## Introduction

Thank you very, very much. Before we begin, I want to take a moment to recognize all of the award winners and researchers who are joining us today. I was flipping through some of the speaker presentation abstracts and thought about what phenomenal work all of you are doing here in our great State.

I was also struck by the diversity of all of the names on that abstract. And looking around this room, it really represents the greatness of our country that so many people who can trace their ancestry to places all around the globe to this important healing and lifesaving work here in our State, in our great country.

Your work really is proof of what the life sciences can mean to the future of our State and to the future of our nation. And I want to thank the delegates who are here with us today, who work so very, very hard in tough times to make investments that are not easy to defend, not easy to create, not easy to maintain, and not easy to sustain when you look at the bad news that seems to continue to cascade down to State government budgets.

To Renee Winsky and her staff at TEDCO who did such an outstanding job organizing this symposium... to all of the members of TEDCO's Board, and as well as the members of the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission, thank you for the tremendous progress you've helped us to make as a State as you work to open up a world of possibilities through our efforts in State-funded stem cell research.

## Stem Cell Research and our Shared Future

Change is in the air in our country. I had occasion yesterday to meet with the President-elect in Philadelphia, in Congress Hall, where George Washington himself once presided over a group of individuals, human beings who all signed their name to that document that begins with, "We the people, in order to form a more perfect union..."

And it was such an uplifting meeting of intellectual curiosity from our nation's next chief executive, and openness and willingness to explore new horizons, to hear from those who might disagree with him. Because he said, in his words, "I learn a lot

## Releases

more from the people who disagree with me than I do from the people who agree with me.”

There is really change in the air. And one of the first things that Barack Obama, as President of the United States, will do after taking that oath will be to reverse that short-sighted ban on Federally-funded stem cell research and get our nation and our Federal government back in the critically important and urgent position of healing and advancing scientific research.

In large ways and small, the work that all of you are doing on stem research in Maryland has a profound impact – not only on our own economy... not only on our own economic future... not only on our ability to heal our neighbors here in the United States of America and throughout the world in advanced medicine and life sciences – but really, it has a lot to do with restoring America’s moral leadership of this world, this world of ours in the words of our neighbor and fellow Marylander, Tom Friedman, who wrote that it is becoming increasingly flatter, hotter and more crowded.

We believe in the power and the potential of stem cell research in Maryland. And, therefore, we’re investing in this groundbreaking science because we feel in our hearts a compelling imperative to unleash the healing sciences to the most fragile of our neighbors all around this world of ours. To proliferate what Dr. Jeffrey Sachs characterized as the weapons of mass salvation – those discoveries, those innovations, those new advances to healing.

In Maryland, we’re developing these weapons of mass salvation through world class institutions of research, discovery, higher learning and higher compassion which define the character of our State’s creative and knowledge-based economy. We are developing these new advances through the hard work and the open hearts of so many of you who are here today.

As you work for that brighter tomorrow, we in the O’Malley-Brown Administration are committed to supporting you as much as we possibly can. In the difficult economic times, we are continuing our plans to invest at least \$200 million over the next ten years in stem cell research. In our first two years together, even with the \$2.2 billion we cut and the \$1.3 billion in new revenues that were politically unpopular and difficult to pass, we have been able to invest \$38 million in stem cell research in the State’s fund.

In addition, it’s a little known fact that while there are other states that are much larger than Maryland in terms of population and size, Maryland actually has one of the three largest stem cell funds in the entire country. And unlike some other funds that are still kind of tripping over themselves, trying to figure out how to get the dollars moving, our dollars are actually hitting the labs, are actually getting into the hands of so many of you who are doing this cutting edge work.

### **Summit Announcement**

It is, therefore, a testament to the tremendous leadership being demonstrated by all of you in Maryland’s scientific community that today we are able to announce that next September Maryland will host the 2009 World Stem Cell Summit right here. (Applause)

This summit is being hosted by none other than Johns Hopkins University and the University System of Maryland, our two star running backs in this wishbone offense of life science and biotech. The summit will foster collaborations, it will promote economic development and help us to usher in a new era of healing and creativity as we seek together to unlock the life-saving potential of this cutting edge research.

And as we continue to establish Maryland as an international leader in stem cell research, the Summit will bring together nearly 1,500 stem cell stakeholders from across the nation and around the world, representing researchers, industry leaders, policy makers, regulators, advocates, legal experts and investors, as well as philanthropists.

The Summit will be organized by the Genetics Policy Institute, a leading promoter and defender of stem cell research and other cutting edge medical research targeting cures throughout our world.

## **Maryland Leads the Way**

Having been chosen to host this conference is really quite an honor for our State, and I'm very, very grateful to all of those who made the decision to come to Maryland. It follows a great deal of recognition that we've been receiving over the efforts that we've made together as One Maryland to invest in our own potential as a people, who dream of a new tomorrow and, more importantly, they actually take affirmative actions to bring that new tomorrow into today.

This past summer, the Milken Institute actually moved our bioscience rating from number four in the nation to number two in the nation, behind only Massachusetts. But it affirms that in Maryland we are not standing still. We are moving ahead, and we're making progress. To move from fourth to second, we are, therefore, one of the top two states in America that is best positioned to leverage our science and technology assets for economic growth and economic opportunity.

One of the reasons for this high ranking is that one of the criteria they looked at was the degree to which any state invests in the talents, the skills and the education of our people. And in that criteria, in that ranking, we rank not fourth... we rank not third... not second... but number one in terms of what we invest in the talents, the skills, and the education of our people. (Applause)

And that really defines the greatness of our character as a people.

The reason that Forbes magazine says that in Maryland we have one of the top three most highly skilled workforces in the country is because of that number one ranking. Because of the dollars we invest, because of the hard work that we invest in the talents and skills of our people.

It is not coincidental, it is causal that we would have one of the top three workforces in the country and that we would have one of the top three public school systems in the country.

It's not to say that we're done, but we are making progress. And we should all be very, very proud and proclaim to all of our fellow citizens who come to this Summit that Maryland is the State that is moving forward – that Maryland is leading the way. The Summit will bring together nearly 1,500 stakeholders from across the nation,

around the world. And it's going to be a terrific event.

Together, we're investing \$2.7 billion in our four year colleges and universities. That's an increase of about \$613 million over the comparable period of the prior administration.

And together we've created a P to 20 Council – pre-kindergarten through grade 20 – so that we can better coordinate, integrate and align the efforts that are so critically important in that whole continuum that develops that highly skilled creative, innovative workforce.

Together, we've also created the Life Sciences Advisory Board to draw upon our State's best and brightest minds to create a strategic vision and a strategic plan for securing Maryland's global leadership in the life sciences.

And we are marketing our State's bioscience sector across the globe. In May, I joined a delegation from Maryland and traveled to Israel to promote bioscience partnerships with Israeli companies and to attend an international biosciences conference. You know, when they assigned the booths, I think we were one of the very first States to actually start there. And it's paid dividends. Approximately 40 Israeli companies who are united with American businesses are now headquartered here in our great State.

In addition, delegations from China, India, Ireland, Russia, Australia, Spain, South Africa, Kazakhstan, Japan, Uganda and Montenegro have visited Maryland to learn more about business and investment opportunities in our State in life sciences and biotech.

Together, we're investing directly in our bioscience sector as well. This summer, right before heading out to the Bio Conference in San Diego, we launched our Bio 2020 Initiative. We looked across the board at all of the things that we are doing and asked ourselves what we could do to increase and advance that progress more quickly and more substantially than any other State in the Union.

So the Bio 2020 Initiative is a \$1.3 billion investment in the years ahead in our bioscience sector which represents, to our best knowledge, information and belief, the largest per capita investment that any State has ever made in the life sciences. Bio 2020 is projected to leverage \$6.3 billion in private investment for Maryland. And it's really our future.

We are expanding our State's Biotechnology Investment Tax Credit as well, which in only two years has leveraged \$24 million for growing Maryland biotech companies.

In addition, through Bio 2020 we are also borrowing a good idea from another state to our south, North Carolina, which, frankly, was not in this top ranking of the Milken Institute, but has done, you must admit, a much better job of marketing what they have than we have in the years past in Maryland. So we are going to be creating the Maryland BioTechnology Center, a one-stop shop that will include TEDCO's transfer initiatives, which will support biotechnology innovation and entrepreneurship in Maryland and will consolidate the various State, academic and private sector research ventures.

And we're expanding our technology incubator network, following a TEDCO study,

which found a strong demand for additional space.

## Conclusion

These are all things which I hope will give you some hope and optimism, if you don't already have hope and optimism from the change that's in the air nationally.

Maryland has an important responsibility. It's our legacy, especially in times of great national challenge and great adversity, to lead the way. To lead the way with our belief in the dignity of every individual. To lead the way in our belief in our own responsibility to advance the common good. To lead the way in our own belief that our diversity really is our greatest strength. It is the thing that makes us the moral leader of this world.

Recently I had occasion to attend the reopening of the renovated Smithsonian Museum of American History. And a number of contributors from the private sector helped to refurbish the Star Spangled Banner that flew in our State in a very dark time in our country's history.

And if you have not visited the Star Spangled Banner in her new setting, I encourage you to do it. It is not only a patriotic experience, but it is almost a religious experience to enter that dark hall where she is arrayed as you walk in that room.

And as you view that banner, think about the people who came together and defended our country's liberty. And think about the people who defend it today. It is a little known fact that one out of five of the defenders of Baltimore were African American citizens and 60 percent of the defenders of Baltimore were immigrants.

At the end of the day, I truly believe that our greatness as a society, our greatness as a people, really the power of our liberty, is not going to be determined, defined, realized by how many smart bombs we can drop on our enemies halfway around the world. It is going to be determined by how many smart, compassionate, educated hands and innovative minds that we can extend to the most fragile of our neighbors all around the globe. It's about how we are able in our own time really to proliferate, to create, those weapons of mass salvation.

We are only able to reach across our new scientific horizons because of all of you; people who risk action on the faith that one person can make a difference and that each of us must try. It's really because of your knowledge, your experience and, above all, your compassion that we are able to hold our heads high as Marylanders, to be that State that leads all other States, especially in times of great adversity.

So I thank you for opening your minds, opening your hearts, and for choosing to make Maryland your home. For choosing to realize your talents and the contributions they make to a kinder and healthier and better world and to do that right here in our State. And I am really looking forward to the arrival of the 2009 World Stem Cell Summit to our State next September.

And I thank you so very, very much for the important work that you do every day. Thank you.



0



0



Tags: [bio](#), [bio tech](#), [research](#), [stem cell](#), [symposium](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [One Maryland: Smart, Green and Growing  
UPM Contract Signing Ceremony](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901





THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# UPM Contract Signing Ceremony

December 4th, 2008

Thank you Secretary Porcari. On behalf of the people of Maryland I want to welcome and extend our gratitude to the representatives who are with us today from UPM-Kymmene: Jussi Sarvikas, Angelo LaMantia, and Jukka Holsa. Thank you for believing in Maryland and investing in our State.



As our world grows ever smaller, ever flatter, ever more interconnected, we are increasingly looking toward the centuries-long, international legacy of the Port of Baltimore to help us grow and compete in the 21st century global economy.

## Contract Announcement

Back in July, I had the opportunity to visit our Port to announce a 10-year agreement with Evergreen Marine. Today, we're here once again to announce another important 10-year deal for our State with UPM of Finland.

Our announcement today will keep UPM at the Port of Baltimore for the next ten years – our first decade-spanning agreement with a forest products customer in this Port's great history. The agreement will support 120 direct jobs, \$26 million in wages and salary and \$2.7 million in State and local taxes *each year*.

For those who aren't familiar with UPM, they are one of the leading forest product companies in the world, with production facilities in 14 countries and 26,000 employees. It produces high quality paper that is used to make everything from magazines to telephone books to high gloss publications.

## The Port and Our Economic Potential

In these difficult times, this Port has proven to be a perpetual silver lining in our economic storm clouds – a symbol of our resiliency as a people. Throughout our great Revolutionary history, as Marylanders we've proven time and again that tough times don't last, tough people do.

Our State's export economy provides us with some of our greatest reasons for

[Releases](#)

optimism that these tough times indeed will not last. During our most recently reported period, exports out of this Port of Baltimore were more one billion dollars higher than the comparable period in 2007.

While admittedly, some of this is due to the weakened U.S. dollar, these numbers are nonetheless significant, especially when you consider that there are 3,700 Maryland companies which contribute to our export economy, and of these a full 85% are small businesses.

Overall, the Port of Baltimore is responsible for 50,200 Maryland jobs, \$3.6 billion in wages and salary, nearly \$2 billion in revenues, and \$388 million in State, county, and local taxes. It is also responsible for an important contribution to our tourism economy. In 2008, we had 27 cruises depart from our waters, producing \$63 million for our economy. Next year, this will rise to 79, thanks in large part to Carnival, which will begin year-round cruises from this Port.



What's more, our Port ranks #1 in America in handling roll on/roll off cargo, exports of cars, and imports of sugar, iron ore and gypsum. Thanks in large part to our announcement today, it ranks #1 as well in the import of forest products.

And this week, we became the first major port in America to implement the new Transportation Worker ID cards, or TWIC. While the federal government's process for distributing these cards has been a bit rocky, we continue to believe they are essential to our efforts to establish our Port as the safest in America.

## Conclusion

For centuries the Port of Baltimore has been a point of entry for possibility and a harbor of opportunity for our State. We look forward to a decade of successful partnership between UPM and the people of our One Maryland.

Once again, I want to thank everyone at UPM for investing in Maryland. As a token of our appreciation, we have some gifts to present to Mr. Sarvikas, Mr. LaMantia, and Mr. Holsa.



0



0



Tags: [agreement](#), [cargo](#), [contract](#), [port](#), [signing](#), [upm](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium](#)  
[Antietam Illumination](#) »



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Antietam Illumination

December 6th, 2008



Good afternoon and thank you very, very much for having me here today.

I want to thank Superintendent John Howard and all our volunteers and park staff who worked so hard to make this tremendous experience possible. Thanks also to the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and to Georgine Charles and the American Business Women's Association for helping to make this event happen for 20 years now.

Whenever I bring my family here, it's a sobering experience to stand on grounds that once witnessed such bloodshed and struggle nearly a century and a half ago. The sheer numbers of those lost during the Battle of Antietam is hard to comprehend, but the candles we see lit today

make it clear just how many Americans were killed.

As the sun rose on September 18, 1862, 23,000 soldiers had been lost. The Union Army had pushed back General Lee's forces, ending his invasion into the North and giving President Lincoln the chance he needed to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

In many ways, our fate as a nation was determined that day. But when we look upon these hills and valleys where so many American soldiers fought and died, we mustn't only remember the division that brought them here, but also the challenges we have overcome as a people to get to where we are today.

This is a place that represents the sacrifice and determination that has shaped our nation indefinitely. It represents the revolutionary spirit that still captivates our people. And it is proof of our strength and resilience, and the common American truth that tough times don't last, but tough people do.

But perhaps most importantly, this memorial honors all Americans – black and white,

[Releases](#)

rich and poor, young and old, Union and Confederate. In a very real sense, it honors not just those who died that day, but the many generations of men and women that have sacrificed so much in defense of the freedoms we hold dear.

This is a site that every American, and especially every Marylander, should have the chance to visit – our families, our schoolchildren, our teachers, our parents and grandparents, our leaders. Antietam reminds us of Maryland's place in this nation, its centrality and its rich history lending to the strength that drives our State today.

That's why we come here – to witness what we've overcome as a people, to witness our place in our nation's history, to remember those who were lost, and to share it with future generations.

Thank you.



0



0



Tags: [antietam](#), [ceremony](#), [illumination](#), [memorial](#), [military](#), [photos](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [UPM Contract Signing Ceremony  
Energy Assistance Press Conference](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901



THE OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



## Categories

## Live Streaming Video

- No dates present

## Subscribe for email alerts

Your email:




## Archives

## Former Press Releases

- [2010 Press Releases](#)
- [2009 Press Releases](#)
- [2008 Press Releases](#)
- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# Energy Assistance Press Conference

December 8th, 2008



Thank you all for joining us today.

I especially want to thank Senator Mikulski, who fights so hard for Maryland every single day in the halls of the United States Senate. We are truly blessed in Maryland to have such a strong Congressional delegation, led by Barbara Mikulski, and its times like these that we're reminded just how fortunate we are in Maryland to be represented by such effective and compassionate leaders.

I also want to acknowledge John Stewart and everyone at the Commission on Aging who do such important work, along with everyone at the Waxter Senior Center.

We are going through some very difficult and challenging times in both our State and our country right now,... made more challenging as the cool breeze of Autumn gives way to the harsh cold of winter.

As Marylanders, we have a long Revolutionary tradition of proving that tough times don't last, tough people do. We're going to make it through these tough times, but only if we continue to stick together and strengthen our shared priorities, including the obligation we feel in our hearts to protect our most vulnerable neighbors.

During serious weather situations, the ability to heat one's home can be a life or death issue. And in our One Maryland, where we're united in our belief in the dignity of every individual and our belief that there is no such thing as a spare Marylander, it is unacceptable for any citizen to lose his or her life due to an inability to pay a heating bill.

We're here today to discuss our on-going efforts to provide home energy assistance to some of our more vulnerable neighbors.

Thanks to the incredible work of Senator Mikulski and our Congressional delegation, our federal allocation to Maryland for energy assistance has increased from \$35 million last year to \$110 million this year.



[Releases](#)

This increased allocation will allow our Administration to serve as many as 10,000 more Marylanders, to provide recipients with a larger benefit, to reach eligible citizens who haven't yet applied for assistance, and to help those citizens who have fallen behind in their energy bills to get up-to-date and avoid having their heating shut off.

We wanted to take this opportunity today to remind Marylanders how to apply for assistance. In order to apply, citizens should call 1-800-332-6347. That number again is 1-800-332-6347.

Alternatively, we are accepting applications through our State's new "Problemsolver" website, an online one-stop-shop encompassing all the various State and federal resources available to assist families during these difficult economic times. The website can be accessed at [www.problemsolver.maryland.gov](http://www.problemsolver.maryland.gov). Users who log-in should click on "Maryland Energy Assistance Program" under the "Utilities & Energy" heading.

Marylanders can also apply at their local Departments of Social Services office. A complete list of locations is available on the Problemsolver website, under "Additional Tools."

Eligibility for energy assistance is determined by income. A family of four earning less than \$37,100 per year, for example, would qualify, as would an individual earning up to \$18,200 per year. We have brochures with us today with more information.

Let me close by asking all Marylanders to reach out to friends, family and neighbors who might be in need of assistance, but who do not know that it is available to them.

With that, I would like to turn the microphone over to one of the greatest legislators in the history of that great institution known as the United States Senate, U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski.



0



0



Tags: [assistance](#), [energy](#), [housing](#), [photos](#), [utilities](#)

[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Antietam Illumination](#)  
[MACO Winter Conference Keynote](#) »

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)



100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974.3901